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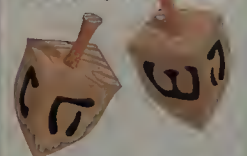
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Darfur: stopping the genocide is a Jewish obligation

By Barry Fishman, Editor
Harvey Goldberg did something he has never done before. And unless otherwise instructed, he promises to never do it again.

Recently, he e-mailed everyone on his contact list after attending the *Continuing Crisis in Darfur* conference held recently at the University of Ottawa.

Although Goldberg says he has always been aware of the situation in the Darfur and, in fact, has written letters and made phone calls, he felt he wasn't doing enough.

"Going to the conference gave me a better appreciation of what is happening there and about what we can do to help," he says.

He has become a Darfur activist. "We all need to do more," he insists. Goldberg, whose day job is

at the Canadian Human Commission, is vice-president of the board of directors of Jewish Family Services.

His fervent hope is that his e-mails, and his conversation with the *Bulletin*, will inspire others to get involved in helping putting an end to the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

In the last four years, 300,000 to 400,000 civilians have been murdered. More than two million people have been internally displaced in Sudan, and 250,000 are now living in refugee camps in Chad.

Attacks on civilians began with the Sudanese air force bombing villages and were followed by the Janjaweed Arab militias invading and killing the men and boys – some-

(Continued on page 7)

Bridging the gap on the Holiday of Lights



As part of their Mitzvah program, students of the Benlolo Afternoon School prepare a box of Chanukah decorations, candles, chanukiah and toys to send to the Igbo Jews of Nigeria. This is their way of sharing the light with their brothers and sisters half way around the world during this beautiful holiday. More Chanukah on pages 22 and 23.

Cotler demands justice for Jewish refugees from Arab lands

By Michael Regenstein

The expulsion of 850,000 Jews from Arab countries following the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 has been "utterly expunged and eclipsed from the international peace and justice agenda" says Liberal MP Irwin Cotler.

Cotler, the opposition critic for human rights, is a former minister of justice and attorney general of

Canada. He is also a noted international human rights lawyer and a professor of law on leave from McGill University.

He spoke with the *Bulletin* after a brief he co-authored on the issue was distributed last month by the New York-based Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC) in advance of the Israeli-Palestinian peace conference being convened in

Annapolis.

According to Cotler, the United Nations (UN) is central to the Israel-Palestinian-Arab narrative and has "made no reference, at all, to Jewish refugees from Arab lands in the last 60 years. If you look at the whole pattern of UN resolutions, there have been over 840 resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole and 126 resolutions that

have referred specifically to Palestinian refugees. But during these 60 years, there has never been any reference, at all, to Jewish refugees from Arab countries," he said.

Another reason that Cotler mentioned for the historical inattention to the issue has been the reluctance of Jewish refugees themselves to come forward and tell their stories. Cotler said he met recently in Mon-

treau with a group of Jewish refugees from Arab countries, one of whom was a woman he's known for more than 20 years.

"It was the first time I'd heard the story of the torture and murder of her family, of how they had been forcibly expelled from Egypt and their assets seized," he said. Only recently with the establishment of

(Continued on page 2)

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Community in solidarity with kidnapped Israeli soldiers

By Michael Regenstreif

"This is the worst time of my life," said Karnit Goldwasser in describing the ordeal she's been going through since her husband, Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser, and Eldad Regev were kidnapped by Hezbollah terrorists during events that precipitated what became known as Israel's Second Lebanon War.

Ehud and Eldad were Israel Defence Forces reservists completing 28-day tours of duty in northern Israel when they were kidnapped on July 12, 2006 and taken to Lebanon. Since then, Karnit said, her sole mission, and of the other members of her family, "has been to bring back the love of my life."

Many in the standing-room-only audience of more than 300 crowded into the SJCC social hall were visibly moved by the young Israeli woman's words. Karnit couldn't be with her father and father-in-law, and Eldad's father, on their visit to Canada and spoke via pre-recorded video.

She asked the audience to send messages to people of influence – including government leaders here and around the world, the United Nations (UN) and the Red Cross – to seek action in securing freedom for Ehud and Eldad, and for a third Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, who had been kidnapped 17 days earlier,



(From left to right): Jonathan Freedman, Federation chair; Mitchell Bellman, Federation president; Shlomo Goldwasser, father of kidnapped Israeli soldier Ehud Goldwasser; Mina Cohn, translator; Omri Avni, father-in-law of Ehud Goldwasser and Zvi Regev, father of kidnapped Israeli soldier Eldad Regev, at the Ottawa community rally in support of the missing soldiers. (Photo: Peter Waiser)

on June 25, 2006, by terrorists during a raid into southern Israel. Gilad was taken to Gaza.

The three Israeli men visited Ottawa on behalf of their sons on November 20. They met with politicians on Parliament Hill during the day and with the Ottawa Jewish community in the evening at a rally that left no doubt as to the community's solidarity with the families of the kidnapped soldiers.

Zvi Regev, Eldad's father, was the first of the family members to address the audience. Speaking in Hebrew, with a translator at his side, he said the families have had no information on the condition of their loved ones since the kidnappings.

"We know that Udi and Eldad were wounded," he said, "but there's been no visit to them by the Red Cross."

Zvi said that he and the family

members of the other kidnapped soldiers have been travelling wherever they can to mobilize support for their sons, to try and get information about them and to secure their freedom. "We families have hope in our hearts they will return," he said.

Shlomo Goldwasser told the audience he was working in Namibia when he saw a CNN report that two Israeli soldiers had been kidnapped near the Lebanon

border. Knowing his son was on-duty there, he called Karnit and found out that his son Ehud was one of the kidnapped Israelis. He immediately returned to Israel and embarked on what he described as the families' "journey to bring our sons back."

Shlomo said the families have been buoyed by the support they've received wherever they've travelled. "People want to help," he said. "Free people do not accept that the three were kidnapped and stripped of all their human rights."

Omri Avni, Karnit's father, said that Ehud was a second son to him; that he loved the young man from the first time his daughter brought him home.

Omri reminded the audience that UN Resolution 1701, which ended the war, made certain demands of both sides. Israel, he said, quickly met all of its obligations under the resolution. Among the unmet obligations of Hezbollah and the Lebanese was the unconditional release of the kidnapped Israelis.

Omri repeated his daughter's request that everyone write to anyone of influence to seek assistance in securing information about the kidnapped soldiers and their freedom. The families were grateful, he said, for the warm reception they received here.

Cotler: time has come to rectify historical injustices

(Continued on page 2)

JIAC, he added, have the refugees begun to put their testimonies on the record.

Cotler said a number of important considerations have converged at this time that necessitate the bringing forth of the issue of Jewish refugees from Arab countries. They include the 60th anniversary of the UN vote to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states and the Annapolis peace conference.

The time has come, he said, "to rectify this historical injustice; to restore the issue of Jewish refugees to the peace and justice agenda from which it has been expunged."

Cotler said that when the surrounding Arab states rejected the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states 60 years ago – which would have created the two states now being sought

– and went to war with the emerging State of Israel, they also went to war with the Jewish populations in their countries committing massive human rights violations.

"Unfortunately, though, a whole Middle East revisionism has been in play for the past 60 years so that all we've heard is that there was only one victim population, the Palestinian refugees. We've heard nothing that there was another, Jewish, victim population," he said.

"If that weren't bad enough," Cotler added, "the Jews have been held out as being responsible for the Palestinian refugees. In fact, the historical truth is that both Jewish and Palestinian refugees were the joint victims of the Arab-Palestinian conflict and of the Arab war against Israel."

According to Cotler, the result of this revisionism is

that Jewish refugees have been expunged from the human rights agenda during the past six decades as well as from the agendas of any peace talks that have taken place over the years.

Among the documents discovered by JIAC in its research on the Arab state-sanctioned repression of Jews with "Nuremberg-like laws" was what Cotler described as "a blueprint for the concerted denationalization of the Jewish populations of Arab and Muslim countries" via such techniques as seizure of property, internment, forced expulsion and diversion of assets by the League of Arab Nations.

Indeed, just before JIAC was set to publish the brief Cotler co-authored, they received a letter from Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert telling them that discussion of the issue at this time was



Liberal MP Irwin Cotler in New York last month presenting the brief he co-authored on Jewish refugees from Arab countries. (Photo courtesy of JusticeforJews.com)

premature.

Cotler, though, rejected the Israeli prime minister's argument that the time for the issue was not right. "During the Annapolis peace conference, or during any and all

discussions on the Middle East, any explicit reference to Palestinian refugees should also include express reference to Jewish refugees. That is a matter of justice and equity.

"The exclusion or denial of rights and redress for Jewish refugees from Arab and Muslim countries will prejudice authentic negotiations between the parties and undermine the legitimacy of any agreement," he said.

Cotler also said the Arab countries must acknowledge their role and responsibility in the persecution of Jewish refugees and that UN resolutions dealing with Palestinian refugees must also equitably deal with Jewish refugees.

"There should be no mistake about it," said Cotler, "if there is no remembrance of the forgotten exodus, there is no truth. If there is no truth that this forgotten exodus was really a forced exodus, there will be no justice. If there will be no justice, there will be no reconciliation. And if there is no reconciliation, there will be no just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

MITZVAH DAY '08

HOLD THE DATE - JANUARY 27TH, 2008

Dear Community Members,

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Young Adult Division is in the initial planning stages for the 3rd Annual Mitzvah Day which will take place on Sunday, January 27th, 2008.

Once again, this wonderful community-wide event gives our community an opportunity to give back to those who need it most – one good deed at a time. Mitzvah Day is intended to engage members of Ottawa's Jewish community to fulfill their credo to "Live Generously" by giving one's time, sharing one's talents and contributing to one's community. Mitzvah Day also provides an opportunity to build bridges between generations and different populations.

Last year's event was a resounding success with hundreds of people lending a hand to perform a variety of mitzvot for the greater good. Our hope is to make this year's event an even greater success, but we can't do it without you!

All are welcome to participate in the 3rd Annual Mitzvah Day on January 27. To volunteer and/or organize a special Mitzvah for your organization, please contact Lindsay Rothenberg at (613) 798-4696, ext. 270.

We welcome everyone's involvement!

Co-chairs Evan and Lenora Zelikovitz

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Successful Holocaust Education Week reached many

By Francie Greenspoon

Twenty four programs, 15 days and hundreds of people later, Holocaust Education Week 2007 came to an end.

The group responsible for creating the event, the Holocaust Shoah Committee of Ottawa, was left with a tremendous feeling of

accomplishment.

"This year's program exceeded all our expectations in terms of content and attendance and managed to achieve exactly what the committee had set out to do: attract people of many faiths and backgrounds to teach them about the Holocaust," said Sara Breiner,

chair of the Shoah Committee.

Highlights of the week included a JSA-sponsored evening where 70 university students were joined by 12 survivors to celebrate Shabbat. Internationally renowned author and speaker Barbara Coloroso launched the week speaking to 1,300 students and 500 adults about the insidious nature of bullying and its ability to escalate from schoolyard skirmishes to hate crimes and to genocide. A new Israeli-produced film titled *The Children of Teheran* was screened, and the week concluded with a moving *Kristallnacht* commemoration.

Local authors launched books about their Holocaust experiences; Rabbis Steve Garten, Charles Popky and Ely Braun discussed the religious perspectives of the Holocaust; survivors shared painful memories; Ephraim Zuroff, director of the Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem discussed his ongoing efforts to bring Nazi war criminals to justice; and after hearing a survivor and *March of the Living* participant recount their life-altering experiences, students from Ottawa Jewish Modern School and Talmud Torah After-



Students from OMJS and OTTAS participate in the Holocaust Education Week program with art therapist Claire Cohen (centre front).

AJA 50+ bridge and mah jongg fundraiser, October 2007



Fundraiser volunteers (front row, from left to right): Adrienne Diner, Sandra Levinson, Elaine Wolfish, Fern Hershfield; (back row) Flo Morgan, Brenda Wolf, Liz Shwartz, Zelaine Shinder, Doris Bronstein, Joan Delavigne, Gail Victor, Carole Greenberg, Sharon Mintz, Joyce Bellman and Bev Gluzman.

noon School translated what they had learned into art by creating a Holocaust mural under the guidance of art therapist Claire Cohen.

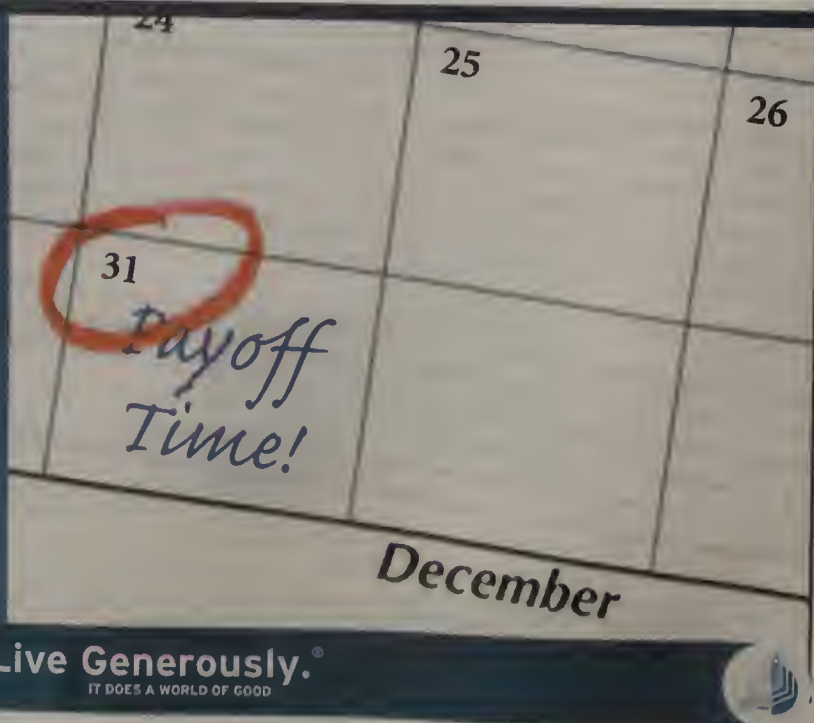
The program venues were as varied as the programs themselves. Churches, libraries, synagogues, theatres and university halls across Ottawa – all had a part in educating the Ottawa community about the Holocaust.

Holocaust Education Week is a program of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. The Shoah committee welcomes new members interested in planning programs that teach tolerance and understanding through the lessons of the Holocaust. Contact Shoah Committee co-ordinator Lisa Krug at 613-274-0420 or lisa.krug@rogers.com if you'd like to get involved in the committee.

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Stephen Greenberg wins volunteer award

By Benita Baker

Stephen Greenberg is well known in the Ottawa community for his outstanding leadership, his contagious enthusiasm, and his commitment to philanthropy.

On November 8, it was exactly these qualities that the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) paid tribute to when they presented him with their Outstanding Volunteer Fund-raising Award for 2007.

"Fundraising has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to connect with people in a very profound way and to help them express themselves philanthropically," said Greenberg in his acceptance speech. "Over the years I have had the privilege of meeting some very special people, many of who have inspired me with their generosity."

Greenberg was nominated for the award by Jack Silverstein, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign.

"Stephen has rendered exceptional leadership for and on behalf of the Ottawa community over the course of many years," said Silverstein. "He has served in the highest positions in our community exhibiting great skill, wisdom and leadership and accomplishing much."

The AFP Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser is Greenberg's hat trick award.

In 1988, he received the



Stephen Greenberg

Freiman Family Young Leadership Award and, in 2004, was presented with the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, the highest tribute the Ottawa Jewish community bestows on individuals for years of community service.

He is in the company of other Greenberg family members, including his late uncles Irving and Lorry, and his cousins Roger and the late Lawrence, who have won the award named after his cousin, Gilbert.

Greenberg began his volunteer career at the age of 16 when he acted as a big brother for Big Brothers of Ottawa. During 38 years of community involvement, Greenberg has raised tens of millions of dollars and served on the boards of several organizations, including Boys and Girls Club, United Way, Ashbury College and the National Arts Centre Foundation.

This year marks his 25th anniversary as an active leader and fundraiser in Ottawa's Jewish community. His involvement began as a UJA canvasser and he went on to become campaign chair, president of the Cam-

pus Board and president of Ottawa Jewish Community Council.

As chair of the Community Development Committee, he played a fundamental role in the most significant milestone for Ottawa's modern Jewish community – the creation of the \$30 million Jewish Community Campus.

When he chaired the 2003 United Way Ottawa campaign, which raised a record \$23.6 million, *Ottawa Life Magazine* described him as "ordinary people doing extraordinary things."

Greenberg has a simple way of deciding how to devote his volunteer time.

"I have to be passionate about the organization and what it is trying to achieve,"

he said. "It is also important that I feel I can play a role in helping it to achieve its philanthropic objective."

The nature of fundraising has changed considerably, said Greenberg, who is nearing the end of his commitment as chair of the Machzikei Hadas \$2 million endowment campaign.

"There is much more competition for dollars now, especially in the Jewish world," he explained. "Before there was one campaign – UJA. Now, numerous Jewish organizations run independent campaigns and many Jews are committed to, and are chairing campaigns for non-Jewish causes."

himself to the lonely Maytag repairman.

"You may recall that the Maytag repairman's problem was that he didn't get any phone calls," Greenberg said. "My problem, on the other hand, is that I make lots of phone calls but, after 25 years of fundraising, no one returns them."

Greenberg is acutely aware that community organizations could not survive without fundraising support, but, unfortunately, there is a limit to what people can contribute.

In accepting the AFP award, Greenberg likened



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Federation plans to do business differently

One of my first memories of giving charity is purchasing a Jewish National Fund tree for Israel when I was a Grade 1 student at Hillel Academy.

At an early age, we learn charity is a basic mitzvah – a core Jewish value through which we strive to achieve Tikkun Olam, and make the world a better place.

The Federation operates as the central agency for fundraising in our community. Therefore, it is imperative that we ensure we are using the best possible practices to achieve our goals.

And with that in mind, we have decided to change the way we do business.

In mid-October, Marla Landis and Leslie Robin, United Jewish Communities (UJC) directors from Los Angeles, spent a couple of days in Ottawa meeting with Federation staff, lay leaders and agency executive directors, assessing how the Federation currently conducts its business.

Based on their findings, and with further analysis and consultation, the two experienced professionals will make recommendations on what changes the Federation can implement to garner more productivity and efficiencies in the way it does business.

UJC, the umbrella organization for Fed-



Federation Report

Jonathan Freedman
Chair

erations across North America, has developed a new collaborative Finance Resource Development (FRD) business model that will drive a new culture at local Federations and make them *Centres of Jewish Philanthropy*.

Collaborative fundraising is an efficient and effective way to sustain the Annual Campaign and grow total FRD. The Federation collaborative model, which was adapted from successful programs across the non-profit world, focuses on expanding and maximizing giving to all income streams based upon individual interests and financial capacity. It recognizes that evolving current systems into more collaborative or integrated models involves a cultural shift within the Federation, cross training existing development professionals, as well as creating and marketing a full menu of

philanthropic options. It requires a willingness to invest in long-term relationships that will lead to more significantly sized gifts.

As is evident from last year's Community Symposium, this community is ripe for innovation on many levels.

New strategies must: 1) help donors feel more connected to the work that their money funds; 2) preserve the strength of the Annual Campaign while rethinking existing fundraising structures and attract and retain major leaders and donors; (3) engage and motivate younger donors; and (4) develop new models of relationship building and create collaborative FRD.

While the Federation's Annual Campaign and Endowments have been very successful in their fundraising achievements, recent dramatic shifts in the broader philanthropic marketplace and the ever-expanding needs of the Jewish people worldwide have presented new challenges to the Federation system. The requirement today is to identify and implement new strategies to substantially improve the ability of federations to raise and distribute more resources through all sources of financial resource development, including the Annual (unrestricted)

Campaign, Planned Giving and Endowments, grants from foundations, supplemental giving and other special campaigns.

We face many challenges and opportunities. The Annual Campaign has reached a plateau, and can expect only incremental increases. Endowment giving is just hitting its stride and contains potential for exponential growth. Donor attrition continues to increase, especially at the lower end of the giving spectrum. Future generations stand to inherit vast sums of wealth. Decreasing Federation budgets limit the investment in financial resource development. And the list goes on.

While we are years away from seeing this new collaborative system in place, I welcome a change that is focused on greater success, more efficiency and long-term stability for our beloved Jewish community. I wait, with great anticipation, for UJC's recommendations on how to move forward with this new model.

With Chanukah just around the corner, I want to wish you all a Happy Chanukah.

On behalf of my wife Aviva, Liat, Tal-or and Elishua, may your home overflow with the joy of the Festival of Lights, love of your family and the miracle of the season.

Au revoir Ottawa, may we meet again

After 31 years, my wife, three of our unmarried children (ages 20, 17, and 14) and I are relocating to Melbourne, Australia, where I have accepted a position as principal of Yeshiva College of Melbourne.

When we arrived in Ottawa, many people had preconceived notions about a Chassidic Jew, how he thinks and even how he should look.

During our three decades in Ottawa, we have made many friends and come in contact with hundreds from our community. As we have gained an appreciation for the practices, needs and feelings of our fellow Ottawans, people have also gained an appreciation for the lifestyle of a Chassid, which, in many ways, is no different from theirs.

Today, the outreach work of Chabad in the community is well respected, with many Chabad families initiating programs that enrich Jewish life in our community.

I learned many important lessons while being a congregational rabbi. No matter how sensitive you are to the needs of others, there is always room for more empathy.

For this lesson in empathy, I will be forever grateful. Recently, I suffered the loss of my mother, of blessed memory. This experience has given me a deeper insight and a better appreciation of other people's pain.

Our local Jewish community has grown in a remarkable manner. We have many Jewish institutions and services, with the Soloway Jewish Community



From the pulpit

Rabbi Mordechai Berger
Young Israel

Centre and the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge serving as models of excellence.

During this time of institutional growth, the community has matured by developing a respect and sensitivity to all its segments.

Just as I am proud of the various Chabad institutions that minister to the needs of our Jewish brothers and sisters, the Ottawa community leadership is proud of the many colours of the community mosaic that help Ottawa achieve its unique status in the annals of great Jewish communities.

Another lesson I have learned is the meaning of friendship. During these 30-plus years, I have encountered hundreds of individuals, while wearing one of my many hats (clergy, school principal, Chabadnik, etc.). Most of these individuals were sincere, decent men and women, the kind you meet in smaller Jewish communities. We have had the benefit of meeting a wide range of people, who respect our lifestyle and whom we consider friends.

I will be forever grateful to the kindness shown to my family by so many

members of this community.

I came to Ottawa as a rabbi in my 20s, with my wife and young family. We leave richer (spiritually) with the friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime.

We are very proud of the Chabad families who have devoted their lives to enriching Jewish life while helping the members of our community.

The Chabad houses of Centrepoinette and Barhaven, Maimonides Rambam School, the Jewish Youth Library, Camp Gan-Israel, the Russian Jewish Centre in Kanata and the many programs and activities sponsored by Chabad are a *nachas*,

which will last forever.

It has been an honour and privilege for Chaye Leah and me to add a small contribution to Jewish life in Ottawa.

I wish each and every member of the Jewish community good health and happiness.

May we hear good news from each other. May we meet again, someplace in this small world, the global village.

Hopefully, we will celebrate together in the city of Jerusalem in the advent of peace, harmony and tolerance for all of mankind with the coming of *Moshiach*.

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UN having little impact in solving crisis

(Continued from page 1)

times burning them to death in their homes. Women and girls were raped; and many have been kidnapped and turned into sex slaves. Over 1600 villages have been destroyed.

It is, without a doubt, one of the most important human rights issues in the world today.

So what is the UN doing?

Despite the United Nations (UN) General Assembly acceptance of the Canadian-led doctrine, "duty to protect," which allows the UN to intervene in sovereign states when they are abusing and killing their citizens, the UN, other than providing some humanitarian aid, is having little success in solving the crisis.

In fact, notes Goldberg, despite the Security Council agreeing to a military force in Sudan, the UN must still get permission from the Sudanese government as to where it can be deployed.

"It is all 'Alice in Wonderland.' The people who are committing the genocide have the power to stop the forces that are supposed to stop the genocide," he says.

It gets worse. The recent UN peace talks took place in Libya – a country known for its support of international terrorism and for its appalling record on human rights. So it comes as no surprise that its leader, Muammar Gaddafi, believes the Darfur people should be left alone to solve their own problems – which Gaddafi described as "inter-



Editor

Barry Fishman

tribal."

And, to no one's surprise, the peace talks failed.

China, a UN Security Council permanent member with veto power, protects Sudan. The reasons are economic. According to the China Please Bring the Olympic Dream to Darfur website (www.dreamfordarfur.org), the Chinese have invested over \$10 billion in Sudan and have sold the Khartoum regime both weapon technology and weapons. They also buy over 50 per cent of Sudan's oil production.

So what is our government doing about this deplorable situation?

Canada supports the deployment of a robust UN military force, works with other UN members to bring peace to the region, has supplied humanitarian aid and has given the undermanned, and mostly ineffective, African Union Force that was deployed to Darfur several years ago, surplus military equipment.

The question remains. "Can we be more assertive?" asks Goldberg.

One has to wonder if Darfur is even on our government's radar screen. In a major foreign policy speech in New York, and later during the speech from the throne, Prime Minister Stephen Harper didn't once mention Darfur. This is the same prime minister who, in 2006, stood on the steps of Parliament during the Yom HaShoah commemoration and urged Canadians to learn the lessons of the past, to never just stand by and ignore signs of trouble, for "it is only in our vigilance and in our actions that we will honour those who died in places like Auschwitz and Dachau," he said.

That is a call for action that we, as Jews, should wholeheartedly take up.

It is certainly not the time to throw up our hands in despair.

"I am optimistic," Goldberg says. "I met a lot of people who are working very hard on the issue in terms of humanitarian assistance, and in lobbying their governments."

We should all follow the lead of the many young Canadian university students who are busily organizing to stop the genocide.

We can begin by learning about the situation at websites like Save Darfur Canada (www.savedarfurcanada.org) or the US Holocaust Memorial Museum Committee on Conscience (tinyurl.com/2dcqab). Then it is time to get busy.

"Governments respond to the concerns of their citizens," Goldberg insists. "Politi-

cians are affected by what the public is saying. If the public doesn't say anything they won't do anything. If the public says this is an issue that has to be addressed, then they act."

Stand Canada has found an ingenious way for you to talk to a politician about the ongoing crisis. Simply phone 1-800-436-6243 (1-800-GENOCID) and, in five minutes, you can make a call to the prime minister, the minister of foreign affairs and a number of other parliamentarians from all parties. For more details, visit their website at www.standcanada.org.

Doing nothing is not an option.

"I approach this from a Jewish perspective. Given the history of the persecution of the Jews, and the genocide committed against us," says Goldberg, "we are obligated to speak out against such situations when we see them."

This Chanukah, get in touch with your MP, write letters and make phone calls to government ministers, to the media, and to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

With the Olympics just around the corner, visit www.dreamfordarfur.org and learn how you can help pressure the sponsors. Olympic officials and the Chinese government into acting on the Darfur crisis.

"One world one dream" is the official slogan of the 2008 Olympics Games. Let us all do our part to make sure that dream includes stopping the genocide in Darfur.

Tune in tonight for *Battle of the Prime Ministers*

Hollywood television writers went on strike this fall, shutting down production on all manner of scripted TV programs, from late-night comedy shows to sitcoms to weekly dramas.

As the strike dragged on, the American networks relied ever more heavily on reality TV programming, which is – of course – unscripted.

In Canada, where we like to watch lots of "Made in the U.S.A." programming, one of the substitutes for all the absent American comedy and drama was a homegrown reality show produced by Canadians for Canadians: *Battle of the Prime Ministers*.

Or was that actually not a reality show, but instead ... reality?

Whatever. It was more entertaining, even, than professional wrestling.

A blow-by-blow recap:

- In the pilot episode, Brian Mulroney comes out with his long-awaited and long memoirs, which include poison-pen attacks on old enemies Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chrétien. Mulroney writes that the late Trudeau's youthful opposition to sending troops overseas to fight the Nazis negated any moral authority he ever may have had as prime minister.

- Then, Chrétien comes out with his own not-so-long memoirs, which include his



Alan Echenberg

own poison-pen attack, this one on his successor, Paul Martin, who – he writes – surrounded himself with "self-serving goons."

- In an unexpected early-season plot twist, Chrétien is hospitalized and undergoes emergency heart surgery on the eve of his promotional book tour. But the wound his book has reopened in the Liberal Party remains untreated.

- During an unscheduled cameo appearance, current Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces an inquiry into Mulroney's dealings with controversial businessman Karlheinz Schreiber and a ban on members of his government from having any dealings with the former PM, their fellow party member.

- In the triumphant late-season return of Chrétien to the show, he continues his attacks on Paul Martin and on Mulroney.

- Joe Clark wades in ... no, hold on a second ... Joe Clark hasn't appeared yet this

season. But in an earlier season, he attacked Stephen Harper as a "dangerous leader" and refused to join his fellow Progressive Conservatives in the then-new Conservative party.

All this may demonstrate that in the minds of some Canadian prime ministers, legacy building is a competitive, zero-sum game.

Commenting on Mulroney's attack on Trudeau, the *Globe and Mail's* Adam Radwanski wrote: "Our prime ministers are always a long way from the collegial tone between former U.S. presidents."

True enough. As Radwanski points out, it's impossible to imagine Mulroney and Chrétien appearing together for a charitable cause or a friendly joint interview, as their respective good friends, George Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton, have done.

Or Chrétien and Martin. Or Mulroney and Clark.

Why is that? Maybe it's the nature of our political systems. Ex-presidents are all former heads of state. In Canada, it's governors-general, not prime ministers, who serve in that above-politics role.

And in the U.S., there are few opportunities for hostile public encounters between leaders. At most, any two ex-presidents will have faced each other in debate a handful of

times during an election campaign, or over the course of a race to lead their party.

In Canada, party leaders can spend years and years standing two swords' lengths across from each other in Parliament, day after day, lobbing insults back and forth.

Or – as with Mulroney and Clark or Chrétien and Martin – former leaders may have battled each other for years and years within the same political parties.

A better explanation for the less-collegial tone of ex-leader relations in Canada, as compared to the U.S., may be that old saying about university politics:

The politics are more vicious because the stakes are much smaller.

Of course, Chrétien and Trudeau got along well, as did Mulroney and Harper before l'Affaire Schreiber exploded this fall. But those were relationships between leaders of different generations – less collegial, perhaps, and more like those of mentor to protégé.

The more general rule seems to be that backbiting and partisan squabbling continue well into retirement for our former prime ministers.

It's no great reflection on the political culture of this country. But at least it gives us something to watch until they can settle that darn Hollywood writers' strike.

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A new mohel is operating in the Ottawa community

By Michael Regenstreif

There's a new mohel in town. Rabbi Yisroel Meir Butrimovitz, one of the resident rabbis at Kollel of Ottawa, has returned to the city after training under, and being certified by, Rabbi Chaim Moshe Weisberg, the national supervisor of ritual circumcisers for the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

Rabbi Butrimovitz grew up in Detroit and is the son of a rabbi and practising mohel. Although he followed his father into the rabbinate at a young age, he didn't expect he'd also become a mohel.

"When I was growing up, I never even dreamt that I was going to be a mohel," he told the *Bulletin* in a recent interview in the Kollel office.

He left Detroit at the age of 20 for rabbinical study, first at a yeshiva in Staten Island, N.Y., and then in Israel.

"I was a full-time student and then came home and got married," he said.

With his new wife, Rabbi Butrimovitz returned to Israel for more study.

"We set up a home there and spent the first four years of our marriage there."

During his studies in Israel, Rabbi Butrimovitz spent time following several of Israel's top mohels, but he wasn't yet serious about becoming a mohel himself. Partly because he didn't yet know what kind of community he'd be located in.

"Most large Jewish communities have a permanent mohel and it's hard to work your way into the business," he explained.

When Rabbi Butrimovitz relocated to Ottawa, he began to see that there might be an opportunity for him to become a mohel when he saw that many religious families were using the services of Montreal- or Toronto-based mohels for the ritual circumcision of their baby boys.

"Mohelim from Montreal and Toronto saw that I had the potential to become a mohel," he said. "They saw that I was following them around, that I was referring to terms that



Rabbi Butrimovitz with Zvi Yeshekel Galandauer, the son of Rabbi Ari and Erin Galandauer, at the baby's bris.

only those who have an 'in' with the mohelim know, and that I knew about intricacies that only mohelim would know about. They were all pushing me to go from knowing how to do it, to actually being able to do it."

Earlier this year, Rabbi Butrimovitz decided to spend the summer in Jerusalem taking intensive training from Rabbi Weisberg, Israel's most renowned mohel, and the top official for ritual circumcision in Israel's Chief Rabbinate. Rabbi Weisberg typically performs five or six circumcisions per day so Rabbi Butrimovitz was present for hundreds of circumcisions during his training period.

"I was there for every one and watched every one," he said.

Training in Israel under Rabbi Weisberg afforded Rabbi Butrimovitz opportunities to acquire hands-on experience at performing circumcisions himself under Rabbi Weisberg's direct supervision.

"I did about 25," he said, "three or four per week."

And, because as Israel's top mohel, Rabbi Weisberg is often turned to in difficult cases, Rabbi Butrimovitz also had opportunities to be present when circumcisions

were performed during surgeries to correct conditions such as hypospadias, a birth defect in which the urinary tract opening is located on the underside of the penis rather than at the tip. According to Rabbi Butrimovitz, the condition affects approximately one in 750 baby boys.

During his training, Rabbi Butrimovitz also had an extremely rare opportunity to be present when a Jewish baby from France with epispadias - where the opening is on the topside of the penis - was flown to Israel for treatment and circumcision.

"Only about 1 in 200,000 males are born with epispadias, and this child was brought in from France to be checked by the mohel I was training with," said the rabbi.

Now back in Ottawa as a certified mohel, Rabbi Butrimovitz has begun performing circumcisions here and is looking forward to having members of the community avail themselves of his services for their newborn boys.

Rabbi Butrimovitz's father, still an active mohel in Detroit, is happy to see his son enter the family business.

"He is quite pleased that I decided to follow him," the rabbi said with obvious pride.

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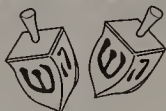
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Got two hours to spare?

Tu B'shevat Teichon Chair Robin Mader is seeking volunteers for the 2008 city-wide phone blitz Sunday, February 3. If you can help, please call 613.798.2411.

KKL-JNF shares its expertise with the world

The world's population continues to expand even as quantities of available water decline due to global warming. Approximately two billion people worldwide currently suffer from water shortage - particularly drinking water - a situation that is expected to worsen in coming years. Israel, familiar with water shortage, has developed extensive skills to address these risk situations and shares them with many countries - often through KKL-JNF. Israel's recent showcase on Water Technologies and Environmental Control - WATEC 2007 - attracted exhibitors and visitors from around the globe.

Dozens of world organizations displayed different technological solutions for conserving or developing water sources and technologies designed to regularize the environment and maintain agriculture and nature areas. KKL-JNF showcased its extensive involvement in many projects that improve environmental quality and rehabilitate water networks in Israel.

"The KKL-JNF booth displays our involvement in the water system and in environmental protection in Israel: caring for forests, rehabilitating the country's riverbeds, the 200 water reservoirs we've built all over the country, most of them for purified sewage water that is used for irrigation by the local farmers," explained Moshe Cohen, KKL-JNF director of development projects.

"KKL-JNF also removes most of the polluting elements from water sources and from rivers, then transfers the water so that it can be used profitably in agriculture," he said. "In restoring the river channels, our aim is to bring back clean water to the river courses, removing the contamination, the refuse and the sewage."

KKL-JNF spotlighted its work in the catchment basin north of Lake Kinneret - the Sea of Galilee - starting with the Baran and Nathali forests and in the Golan Heights, and then further south in the Hulah Valley Project.

"KKL-JNF's matrix of colours is brown, for the earth; blue, for water; and green is forestry and agriculture," said Cohen. "They are the colours in KKL-JNF's new logo and they definitely symbolize how we operate - assisting, developing and preserving the environment, our agriculture and the water network in Israel."

WATEC 2007 was a tangible expression of Israel's status as "Silicon Valley" of the global water and environmental technologies market. Many countries including Australia, USA, India, Germany, Austria, Turkey, France and Belgium displayed their products.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Inscriptions

Cassandra Ruth Goldfarb by her parents Lisanne and Stanley Goldfarb; Sam Kearney by his parents Vicki and Thom Kearney; Aaron Micah Robert by his parents Renee and Andy Robert. Mazal Tov and Yasher Koach to the young celebrants and their proud parents.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (613.798.2411).



Federation sets strategic objectives

By Michael Regenstreif

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa reviewed recent accomplishments and set strategic objectives at a members meeting held November 21 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

In his president's report, Mitchell Bellman said several of Federation's recent initiatives and priorities came out of the symposium held last February on the future of Ottawa's Jewish community.

Among the symposium's conclusions was the need for greater engagement of young people and Bellman reported on several accomplishments; chief among them the acquisition of a Hillel House to serve Jewish university students. The house, which opened just before the current fall semester, has helped revitalize Jewish life on campus.

Other priorities identified at the symposium include revitalizing Jewish education, enhancing communication and outreach, and resource development.

In education, Bellman said Federation is working with the schools to find ways of making Jewish education more accessible and affordable, to expand services offered to special-needs and gifted children, and to enrich offerings in such areas as music, drama, science and physical education.

Discussing communication and outreach, Bellman announced that Federation is developing a community resource centre scheduled to begin operating in January. He also said Federation has focused on increasing the community's public profile and pointed to successful programs like Holocaust Education Week which included events at venues not associated with the Jewish community.

Bellman also discussed Federation's finances and said the 2007 campaign met its goal of raising \$5 million and that spending and allocations are within budget.

Following Bellman's report, Federation Chair Jonathan Freedman presented

a document listing Federation's five strategic objectives and suggested goals for each objective.

The objectives include: increasing the engagement of all age groups in the Jewish community, with a special emphasis on young people; creating opportunities for Jews of all backgrounds, beliefs, practices and income levels to participate in the community; continuing to enhance the transparency and accountability of Federation and strengthen inter-agency co-operation and partnerships; increasing communication of Federation activities to the Jewish and general communities; and enabling and inspiring Jewish Ottawans to increase their participation in the community (particularly those who've been uninvolved or just marginally involved in the community).

Following a lively discussion, the assembly unanimously voted to approve the strategic objectives.

Tamir wins Celebration of People Volunteer Opportunities Award

As part of United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons, Celebration of People honours individuals and organizations in Ottawa who promote inclusion and excellence through personal or corporate example.

Tamir has been selected for this year's Celebration of People Volunteer Opportuni-

ties Award, which recognizes an organization for leadership in creating opportunities for persons with disabilities to engage in meaningful volunteer activities.

Norman Lesh, the grandfather of a Tamir participant nominated Tamir for the award. "They do terrific work and deserve to be recognized," he says.

Tamir was selected for its efforts on developing volunteer work opportunities through its Passages program and for enabling Jewish persons with developmental disabilities to learn about, practice and celebrate Jewish life through Judaic Outreach.

"We owe a large vote of thanks to our community

partners; people in business and non-profit organizations who recognize the benefits of inclusion. This award is as much theirs as it is Tamir's," says Mark Palmer, Tamir's executive director.

Tamir will receive this honour at the 7th Annual Celebration of People Awards Dinner on Monday, December 3.

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Randi Shinder has been recognized for her business acumen.

Beauty industry leader Randi Shinder honoured by Ernst & Young

By Benita Baker

Ottawa's own Randi Shinder has earned a prestigious accolade that pays tribute to her business acumen, her entrepreneurial energy and her creative thinking. She was named Ernst & Young Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year 2007, Ontario region and also received a special citation for product and marketing excellence. She was officially inducted into the Entrepreneur of the Year Institute on November 15 at the institute's international conference in Toronto.

Randi Shinder truly stands alone in a city dominated by politicians, public servants and high technology. How many Ottawans can say they have been profiled in *People Magazine*, had a business partnership with Britney Spears and created a fragrance for Jessica Simpson? Shinder can. But

that is only the tip of the iceberg for a woman who has been described as a 'beauty mogul.'

In 2003, with no prior knowledge of the cosmetics industry, Shinder followed her intuition and created CLEAN perfume. Working alone, out of her home, Randi and her husband Neil believed so strongly in her vision that they committed all of their savings to inventory and marketing materials.

The perfume was instantly successful. Previewed at a Grammy Award function in New York City before it was even commercially available – "the bottles were leaking and the labels were peeling," says Shinder – the perfume captured the attention of fashion editors and celebrities. *People Magazine* mentioned it in the "Style Watch" column and the buzz intensified.

"We weren't ready for the demand," says Shinder. "We didn't even have a web site yet."

Even the Shinders were surprised at the immediate success of CLEAN.

"Is there a perfume crisis in the US?" Neil Shinder asked.

One year later, Shinder entered into a partnership with Jessica Simpson to create the Dessert Beauty line of fragrance, makeup and bath products. This was another consumer triumph for Shinder and further evidence that she was right to follow her entrepreneurial intuition.

Her role as a leader in the beauty industry was now clearly established. Women's Wear Daily/Beauty Biz named her 'Company Newcomer of the Year' and the Ottawa Business Journal, Gowlings, Rogers and

(Continued on page 11)



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Nobel laureate to be guest speaker at Kollel dinner

Noted author and winner of the 2005 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, Dr. Robert J. Aumann will be the guest speaker at the Kollel of Ottawa annual dinner reception to be held at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel on January 13, 2008.

Professor Aumann was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in 1930, to a well-to-do Orthodox Jewish family. Fleeing Nazi persecution, he immigrated to the United States with his family in 1938, settling in New York. In the process, his parents lost everything, but nevertheless gave their two children an excellent Jewish and general education.

Aumann attended Yeshiva elementary and high schools, received a bachelor's degree from the City College of New York in 1950 and a PhD in mathematics from MIT in 1955.

He joined the mathematics department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1956, and has been there ever since. In 1990, he was among the founders of the Center for Rationality at the Hebrew University, an interdisciplinary research centre, focused on Game Theory.

Game Theory is a scientific discipline that analyzes situations (games) in which different entities (players) interact, each one striving to achieve its own goal. The players' goals may be identical, diametrically opposed or just different.

Examples of games include ordinary parlour games like chess or poker, commercial transactions,

elections, international negotiations, wars, auctions, law suits, competitive or team sports, and many other similar situations. They do not include games of luck like dice or roulette.

The analysis is from a strategic, rational point of view, as opposed to emotional, psychological, historic, sociological or spiritual viewpoints.

Aumann is the author of more than 80 research papers and six books and has held visiting positions at Princeton, Yale, Berkeley, Louvain, Stanford, Stony Brook and NYU.

He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences (USA), the British Academy and Israel Academy of Sciences.

He holds honorary doctorates from the Universities of Chicago, Bonn, Louvain, City College and Bar-Ilan University and has received numerous prizes.

For more information or to make a reservation for the Kollel annual dinner reception, contact the Kollel office at 613-729-4368 or e-mail kollottawa@bellnet.ca.

Shinder committed to community well-being

(Continued from page 10)

Talentlab included her in their 'Top 40 Under 40.'

Shinder is motivated by creative thinking and marketing, so rather than sit back and enjoying the success of her growing beauty empire, she introduced another breakthrough product in 2005: LipFusion, a collagen-based lip treatment. It sold almost two million units in its first nine months on the market and spawned a line of Fusion cosmetics and skin care products.

The Ernst & Young award honours entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in areas such as risk taking, company

development, innovation and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

When she accepted the award at a gala banquet in October, two tables of her supporters, including staff, friends and family were there to cheer her on.

"My parents were the proudest people in the world," Shinder says of Rhona and Leonard Cogan, who were also in the audience when their daughter was presented with the special citation for product and marketing excellence at the national banquet held on November 1.

Born in Montreal, Shinder moved to Ottawa as a teenager. Although one would expect the

CEO of a cutting edge beauty business to be based in a glamorous international city, Shinder has no intention of leaving Ottawa. Her family is here including her children Samantha, 10, and Benjamin, 9.

Shinder is committed to fostering the economy and well-being of the local community.

Her husband Neil was the 2006 Ottawa Jewish Federation campaign chair and Shinder was part of the organizing committee for the Women's Campaign Choices event in November.

In November, the Ottawa media reported that Shinder sold 55 per cent of her company, Fusion Beauty, to Ottawa Senators

owner Eugene Melnyk for \$80 million. Not bad for a venture that began on a hunch.

"Whose life am I living," Shinder asks. "Sometimes I have to pinch myself."

The serial entrepreneur is not done yet.

"Beauty is like fashion," she explains. "It's seasonal and you have to create newness all the time."

With her track record, whatever innovative product she introduces next is sure to be successful. While the Ernst & Young award celebrates her as an emerging entrepreneur, it is safe to say that she is no longer up-and-coming. She has definitely arrived.



The Jewish Federation of Ottawa
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IT DOES A WORLD OF GOOD

Tamir and Beth Shalom host Reena visitors at Shabbaton

Wonderful things can happen when we follow the Jewish custom of including disabled persons in our daily observances. This was demonstrated on the weekend of November 2-4, when participants from Tamir (Ottawa) and Reena (Toronto), sister developmental services agencies, along with family, friends and support staff gathered in Ottawa for a busy and exciting *Shabbaton* hosted by Beth Shalom Congregation.

Opening festivities on Friday night included *mincha* and *kabbalat Shabbat* services led by Cantor Daniel Benlolo and featured the voices of the Tamir choir and their Reena guests.

After services, the assembled group enjoyed *Shabbat* dinner and an *Oneg* filled with singing and camaraderie. The Tamir Shabbat

Guide, containing family ritual elements for *Shabbat* (blessings, *Kiddush*, *zemirot*, readings, *Birchat Hamazon*) in a form specially suited to the abilities of the participants, was used to lead the *Oneg Shabbat*.

In gratitude to Beth Shalom, Tamir board member and parent, Norm Ferkin, presented a copy of the *Shabbat Guide* to Ian Sherman, president of Beth Shalom. Sherman smiled broadly as he expressed his pleasure at being able to participate in this meaningful and heart-warming event.

On Saturday morning the Tamir choir, augmented by Reena visitors, joined Cantor Benlolo on the *bimah* during *shacharit* to lead parts of the service, to participate in the Torah procession, to receive *ahiyot*, and to recite *kiddush*.



Festivities featured services led by Cantor Daniel Benlolo and the voices of the Tamir choir and their Reena guests.

Rabbi Gary Kessler invited several participants to the pulpit to deliver *divrei Torah* on the *parshat hashavuah*, relating elements of Abraham and Sarah's story to their own life experiences in a way that captivated the attention of the congregation.

Over *kiddush*, Beth Shalom congregants were overheard to comment on how moving and meaningful it was to see the participants' delight in playing a role in the services, and in demonstrating their interest and enthusiasm for their Jewish heritage.

Particularly moving was Jay Greenblatt's expression of deep connection as he gathered the fringes of his *talit* to touch the Torah when the procession passed. He participates in this ritual at weekly *Shabbat* services at Agudath

Israel. Greenblatt learned the ritual practices that are an integral part of his life in Tamir's Judaic program, and his joy in performing them is shared by those praying near him.

Later in the afternoon, everyone gathered again for table games followed by *mincha*, *seudat shlishit*, *zemirot* and *maariv/havdalah*. Once again, the participants played an active role in the service led by Cantor Benlolo.

At the conclusion of *Shabbat*, the social festivities continued at the Tamir offices with pizza and a private screening of *Fiddler on*

the Roof.

After breakfast on Sunday morning at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, it was time for Tamir and Reena friends to bid farewell to each other.

Arlene Margolese, Reena's manager of faith and cultural services and volunteer services, took the opportunity to express how wonderful it was to witness the participation of family members, and the comfortable interaction of the community with the participants.

Tamir and Beth Shalom have partnered twice in the past to host inclusive *Shabbat*

tons, while Reena hosted Tamir last year in Toronto.

Beth Shalom also hosts Tamir participants for the annual *Simchat Torah* service, and encourages the participants to join in services according to their capabilities.

Tamir and Reena are planning to meet again in the spring. They are eagerly looking forward to performing at the opening ceremony of the Kinus 2008 Conference of Jewish Developmental Service Providers of North America, which Reena and Tamir are co-hosting in Toronto.

This *Shabbaton* is yet another illustration of the Jewish value of including persons with disabilities in all activities within the community.

"Abraham was known for his hospitality...it makes me feel good that you [congregation Beth Shalom] have shown us, people with disabilities, the same goodness as Abraham. We will always remember," Shirley Harris said in her *dvar Torah*.

The community at large as well as other Jewish agencies are encouraged to invite Tamir to join in and participate in their events in the future.

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Growing up Jewish in the Ottawa valley

By Barry Fishman

Actor, writer, musician and visual artist Allan Merovitz has fond memories of growing up Jewish in the 1950s and '60s in Smith Falls and the Ottawa Valley. So much so that in February 2007 he will be bringing his one-man show, *If Cows Could Fly: Growing Up Jewish in Smiths Falls*, to the main stage at the GCTC Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre.

It will be the first independent production to play at the new theatre and the first time the show will have played in Ottawa.

Merovitz has come full circle.

He was part of GCTC's first production, a touring show, "Yonder Lies the Valley," a play about the early settling of the Ottawa valley. His family, the Waxmans, was among the first Jewish settlers in Smith Falls.

"My zadie and bubbie were very Orthodox. So any Jewish travellers coming through town to raise funds would only stay at their house. So we got news from Palestine and what was going on in Europe at that time," he says.

On Jewish holidays families throughout the valley would get together. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was a particularly exciting time. Families from Perth, Meriville, Brockville, Almonte and Carleton Place would take turns hosting.

"They would come with their kids, their pots and pans, their blankets and pillows. I



Allan Merovitz's family was among the first Jewish settlers in Smiths Falls.
(OJB photo: Barry Fishman)

often gave up my bed and there would be three other kids sleeping there.

"It was amazing. You got to know all these other kids and their families," he says.

"It was a wonderful way for a kid to grow up. You go here, you there, you get schlepped around."

The valley Jews were close-knit.

He fondly remembers being called at 6:30 am, grabbing his tallis, and along with his dad, zadie and uncle, travelling to one of the valley towns because someone had a yartzeit and they were short of men for a minyan.

Merovitz knew at a young age that he would be involved in the arts.

"I cannot remember a time when I didn't sing," he says.

Merovitz came from a musical family. Over the years, he learned many Yiddish songs which he put to good use as lead singer of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band and other groups.

He also remembers, as a 12-year-old, working in his uncle's junk yard removing radiators and bumpers and then welding them together to create sculptures.

He decided to study fine arts at Sir George William in Montreal where he began to do work for internationally known director/puppeteer Felix Mirbt.

"It had a huge effect on how I started to look at the arts. It really changed my perception of art and the world, and the place of art in the world," Merovitz says.

He spent two years living in Israel on a kibbutz, he laughingly says. "They loved me there because I grew up in the country and I knew how to milk a cow."

Due to his mother's illness, he returned home and soon began studying acting and performing.

Merovitz is a playwright who has twice won Dora Mavor Moore awards for co-writing *Something from Nothing* and *The Theory of Relatives*, both of which, he notes, have Jewish content.

His latest project, *The Wedding Bard*, recreates an Eastern European Jewish wedding and involves members of the audience playing different roles. Merovitz plays the *bodchan*, the master of ceremonies, wedding clown and musician.

"It is a very interactive, very spontaneous, they don't sit down," he says.

Merovitz was inspired to write *If Cows Could Fly* because of Jim Keegstra, the Eckville, Alberta teacher who taught his students the Holocaust was a hoax. Merovitz remembers being furious when he read about Keegstra and decided to do something about it. The result is an entertaining musical show that retraces his family history in Europe and Canada.

"It is a totally appropriate family show. Lots of laughs: catching the fish, blowing up the road, how my Uncle Chaim dealt with the anti-Semites in a humorous way," he says.

The show also features Yiddish songs, country and western, Klezmer and Ottawa valley fiddle tunes.

If Cows Could Fly runs from February 21 to March 9. For ticket information, contact the Great Canadian Theatre Company box office at 613-236-5196.

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husband Percy Levine by Debbie and Lloyd Rossman, by Esther Ages and by Alannah and Tom Grossman

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Edith Mandelzys in memory of your dear father by Valerie and Gaby Terkel and the rest of the family

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Jeff and Rhoda Simbrow in memory of his mother Pearl Simbrow by Noreen Taller Harris and family

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The Singer Family in memory of Rose Singer by The Kleiman Family

Kissy Silverman in memory of Eliezer Silverman by Irv, Violet, Jeffrey and Pamela Cutler

Gaviella Silverstone in memory of your mother Anne Silverstone by Jeremy Cantor

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Michael and Melissa Springer in memory of your Bubby Seddy Springer by

Janice, Marty, Jaclyn and Tommy Friedlich

Hartley Stern in memory of your beloved mother Rachel Stern by David and Rochelle Greenberg, by Barbara and David Slipacoff and Family, by Mark and Edna Mendelson, by Susan, Charles, Jaclyn and Paul Schwartzman, by Alan Freed and Sharon Rosentzweig, by John and Gladys Greenberg, by Carol and Laurie Pascoe

Michael Takefman in memory of your mother Pearl Takefman by David and Rochelle Greenberg

Miriam Taub in memory of your mother Ilona Gal by Eva Gelbman

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Howard Yegendorf in memory of your father Max Yegendorf by Marcia and Barry Cantor and family, by Lisa and Fred Cogan and Family, by Marla, Danny, Madison, Allec and Cameron Seller

Terry Zahel in memory of Lynda Lea by Pinchas and Barbara Pleet

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Edward Adelson with all our love and best wishes on your special birthday by Sol and Zelaine Shinder

Frankie Adelson on your special award by Zelaine and Sol Shinder

Benita Baker, Jackie Barwin, Miriam Burke, Anna Lee Chiprout, Roslyn Fremeth, Janice Friedlich, Arlene Glube, Cally Kardash, Allison Levy-Popky,
(More on page 16)

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Please accept our apologies
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This list is up to November 12, 2007.



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(Continued from page 15)

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The Bardins Best wishes in your new home by Rita Engels

Norman Barwin Mazel Tov on adding an honorary doctorate to your life accomplishments by Ricki and Barry Baker and Family

Loretto Benninger Happy Birthday and Many More by Peter and Minda Wershof

David Blumenthal Mazel Tov and Best Wishes on your special birthday by Beth Roodman

Martin Boyer Mazel Tov and Best Wishes on your special birthday by Sheila and Si Morin

Sheila Baslow Mazel Tov and Best Wishes on your special birthday by Barbara and David Slipacoff and family

Ike and Rebecca Bernstein on the occasion of your 60th Wedding Anniversary by Molly Hirsh and Eric Elkin, Nina and Ben

Lil and Joe Cole wishing you a Happy 60th Anniversary by Debbie and Lloyd Rossman

John Endicott, Frank St. Marsille, Brian McSheffrey, Mike Bullard, Ted Bulley, Corey Foster, Laurie Boschman, Brad Marsh, Shaun Van Allen, Jim Kye, Shawn Rivers, Ron Tugnut, Rick Smith, John Barrett, Boh Charlebois, Noel Price, Bill Kitchen, Chris Valentine, Larry Skinner, Mike Dagenias, Kevin Kemp, Murray Kuntz, Jean Payette, Jennifer Graves, Juliette Oleynik, Chad Schella with thanks for making the 1st Roger Neilson Memorial Game a memorable success by the Friends of Israel Hockey and the Jewish Community of Ottawa

Jacques Dalihard Congratulations and a big hearty Mazel Tov on receiving the Heritage Canada Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award by Ruth and Leon Katz

Zahava Farber on your Special Birthday by Shirley Marcus, and by Eric, Joy and Becky Weisbloom

Aaron, Brandon and Tyler Fathi Happy First Birthday by Byron P. Sara S and Sarah W

Dale Fyman on your 60th Birthday by Debbie and Lloyd Rossman

Zvi Golany and Alain Hauser Mazel Tov on your Wedding by Agnes Prust

Mark and Kathy Gurevitch on your 25th Wedding Anniversary by Paula, Stephen, Jordan, Serena and Mc'lech Silver Enid Gould thinking of you by David and Rochelle Greenberg

Enid Gould Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your family by Bill and Flora Silverman

Gladys and John Greenberg Thank you for a beautiful evening by Evelyn Greenberg

Gladys and John Greenberg with much appreciation by Roz and Myles Teller

Dr. Lyl Higginson with much thanks for all you have done by Leon Katz, O.C., O.O., P. Eng and Ruth Katz

Milton Kimmel with heartfelt appreciation by Ellen, Marty and Sharon Cardash

Vera and Leslie Klein Mazel Tov on your special Anniversary by Ethel and Irving Taylor and by Marcia and Barry Cantor

Harriet Lihin Mazel Tov on your special birthday by Elizabeth and Steven Rubin

Paul Mendelsohn on the occasion of your special birthday by Margo, David, Aaron and Gail Kardish

Florence Moss Wishing you a Happy Birthday by Susan, Charles, Jaclyn and Paul Schwartzman

The Novick Family Mazel Tov on the birth of your daughter Sarah by Eileen, Zohar and Daniel Barak

Jim Orban congratulations on your special honour at the Negev Dinner by Rochelle and David Greenberg

Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Piell in honour of your 50th Wedding Anniversary by Fran and Sid Gershberg

Joseph Ruffolo congratulations and best wishes on your 50th birthday by Chick Blauk

Dundi Sachs on the occasion of your 75th Birthday by Cookie Krantzberg

Lyon Sachs on the occasion of your 80th Birthday by Cookie Krantzberg

Tracy Sandler and Ken Herlin Best wishes in your new home by Jackie, Kevin, Zachary and Meredith Barwin

Art Saper Mazel Tov on your special birthday by Eric, Joy and Becky Weisbloom

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Dan and Erma Seekings congratulations on the birth of your grandson Luther Jonathon Jesse by Ruth Silbert

Mitchell Shack and Tina Berenbaum Best wishes on your move to LaHoya by Jackie, Lucian, Michael and Simon Sitwell

Clara and Meir Shaolian and Family Mazel Tov on the engagement of Naomi to Shai Ofir by Eileen, Zohar, Daniel and Knish Barak

Mitchell Shnier and Dini Portnoy Mazel Tov on your Marriage by Irv, Violet, Jeffrey and Pamela Cutler

Max Smolkin Best Wishes as you turn 100 by Frayda and Charlie Wiseman

Arthur Starr on the occasion of your 90th Birthday by B.G. and Barbara Kalef

Jen Gould Steinberg thanks for the music, you are a breath of fresh air by David, Rochelle, Monya and Olivia Greenberg

Joyce and Janet Turnbull in appreciation by Yitzhak and Lea Kalin

Gary Victor in appreciation by the Rossman and English Families

Beulah Wadsworth on the occasion of your 75th birthday by Sharon Abron Drache

Stephen Weiner on the occasion of your special birthday by Ketty and Morris Samel

Rhoda Weltzman on the occasion of your birthday by Eileen, Stuart, Josh and Amanda McCarthy

Esther Wolfond Happy 95th Birthday by Ruth and Myron Poplove

Mazel Tov to:

Norman Barwin on your recent designation of Honorary Doctor of Law by Ruth and Leon Katz and by Marcia and Barry Cantor

Rahbi and Mrs. Eli Braun on the engagement of your daughter Elisheva to Josh Brantz by Marcia and Barry Cantor

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Jean Chretien by Elly and Al Bruner

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Julie Cogan by Marcia and Barry Cantor
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Rob Rishikof by Eileen, Zohar and Daniel Barak

Spencer Rose by Valerie, Gaby, Keri and Jonathan Terkel

Jack Silverstein by Marcia and Barry Cantor and Boys

Artist explores Jewish immigrant experience in poignant exhibition

By Michael Regenstreif

Cheryl Pagurek's four grandparents all came to Canada from Poland in the 1920s. Eight decades later, the Ottawa-based artist has drawn on the immigrant experience, on Jewish life in the old country and the new, and linked it to the lives of her own children today in *Ephemera*, a poignant video and photographic exhibit opening January 11 at the Patrick Mikhail Gallery.

The centrepiece of *Ephemera* is *Passage*, a seven-and-a-half minute video that movingly weaves archival footage – some of it more than 100 years old – from Europe and North America with images shot by Pagurek in and around her home. There are scenes of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island and of bustling street life on New York's Lower East Side that remind us of the immigrant experiences of so many North American

Jewish families in the first half of the 20th century.

There are also scenes filmed in Europe that remind us of the fate that befell so many who didn't leave. Scenes featuring a group of women working in Warsaw and of young children playing in 1938 are particularly heartbreaking when we see the required Stars of David sewn on their clothes.

We, in the present, know what they in the past couldn't have ever possibly imagined about their fates. But then we see Pagurek's young daughter ride through on a bicycle and realize the connections between the past, present and future.

At the same time that we realize Pagurek has used the video to make a statement about the continuity of generations over many decades, we also see that she's used elements of shadows and light to mark the unfolding and passing of a single day.

In addition to the video, *Ephemera* also includes photographic stills in which Pagurek expressively blends images that simultaneously evoke the past and the present.

In an interview with the *Bulletin* at her home-studio, Pagurek said it was important to her to include the images of pre-Holocaust Europe in a video that concentrates on the immigrant experience.

"During the Holocaust, both sides of my family lost all the relatives who didn't immigrate here before then," she said.

One of her grandfathers, she said, was haunted all of his life because he came to Canada with a ticket originally meant for his brother. His brother gave him the ticket and meant to follow later, but never did.

Creating this work "was a way of looking back at history in a very personal way,"



Artist Cheryl Pagurek holding one of the photographic stills from *Ephemera*.

(OJB photo: Michael Regenstreif)

said Pagurek. "Even though we're living in 2007, when we think about our own personal choices, I know that my grandparents' lives and stories have had a huge impact on me."

Pagurek has two children,

a four-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son, and happily sees the type of bond she felt with her grandparents being shared by her own children and their grandparents.

Ephemera will be on display at the Patrick Mikhail

Gallery, 2401 Bank Street, from January 9 until February 3. There will be an artist's talk with Pagurek on Sunday, January 20 at 3:00 pm. For information, call 613-746-0690 or visit www.patrickmikhailgallery.com.



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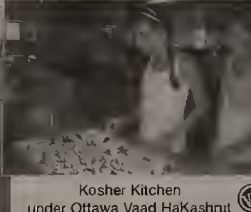
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January 29- February 3, 2008

A Week of Jewish Learning

With Two Israeli Scholars

1.

Professor Ithamar Gruenwald, Tel Aviv University

Co-sponsored by the Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa

How Prevalent is Jewish Mysticism in Jewish Religiosity?

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 pm; Paterson Hall, Room 303, Carleton University

Professor Gruenwald teaches in the Department of Hebrew Culture Studies and the Program in Religious Studies at Tel Aviv University. He has published widely on the topics of Jewish mysticism and Gnosticism. His most recent book was *Rituals and Ritual Theory in Ancient Israel*, Brill: Leiden & Boston, 2003.

2.

Rabbi Chaim Tabasky, Bar-Ilan University

Co-sponsored by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Jewish Education through Torah, Ottawa College for Jewish Studies, and Congregation Machzikei Hadas

Rabbi Chaim Tabasky teaches Talmud at the Maehon HaGavoa L'Torah (Institute of Advanced Torah Studies) at Bar-Ilan University. He has taught extensively in Jerusalem Yeshivot both for men and women, especially in programs for English speaking academics.

- Rabbi Tabasky will be presenting a three-part series on *The Nature of Torah Study*:
 - (1) *The Grass and the Trees in Bereishit: Nature's Way in Torah Study*, Wed., Jan 30, 7:30 pm, Paterson Hall 303, Carleton U
 - (2) *From Immaturity to Mature Love: A Textual Study of the Song of Songs*, Thurs., Jan 31, 8:30-10:00 am, Room TBA, Carleton U.
 - (3) *Personal Tragedy in a Time of Communal Needs: The Reactions of Moshe and Aharon to the Deaths of Aharon's Sons*, Thurs., Jan. 31 at 7:30 pm, Soloway Jewish Community Centre
- Workshop with Rabbi Tabasky: *An Encounter with the Talmud*, Sun., Feb 3, 10:00am-3:00 pm, Soloway Jewish Community Centre

The workshop will focus on textual study of a section of Talmud -- in order to learn about structure, method, Talmudic logic and a halachic idea. Even those with little or no background will be encouraged to engage the Talmudic texts and the sages in a creative and inspiring dialogue (the workshop will include Havruta study).

To ensure adequate seating for Rabbi Tabasky's events at Carleton and the SJCC, please pre-register for the sessions you wish to attend with the Zelikovitz Centre 613-520-2600, ext. 1320 or jewish_studies@carleton.ca.

- Shabbaton with Rabbi Tabasky, Fri., Feb. 1 and Sat., Feb. 2, Congregation Machzikei Hadas
 - (1) Shabbat Dinner: *The Shemittah Challenge*, Fri., Feb. 1
 - (2) Shabbat morning: *Orasha on Parsha*
 - (3) Saturday Evening, Feb. 2: *Melava Malka*
 Talk: *Global Warning, Global Responsibility and Halacha*

To make reservations for Shabbaton events, please call the Machzikei Hadas Office at (613) 521-9700

These events are free and open to the public. For more information:
Tel: 613-520-2600, ext. 1320, email: jewish_studies@carleton.ca
www.carleton.ca/jewishstudies



Quilt project brings cohesiveness and commitment to the community.

(Photo: Robin Cherrick)

Wall quilt celebrates Temple Israel's 40 years

By Merle Haltrecht-Matte

Temple Israel commemorated its 40th anniversary in a lasting way by hanging a wall quilt that is sure to inspire future generations.

Everyone involved in the project, will be forever proud to see their creation hanging in camaraderie and friendship.

"The project brought cohesiveness and commitment to this community," said Claire Cohen who conceived the quilt.

A year ago, when I was chair of Temple's 40th anniversary organizing committee, Cohen approached me with the idea of a group creation.

The quilt was officially unveiled at Shabbat *Toledot* services, exactly a year after the 40th anniversary celebrations with many who participated in the design, stitching, and hanging of the large, 10-and-a-half-foot work of art, in attendance.

"This quilt is a metaphor of this sacred community called Temple Israel. It is composed of reflections of the very old, and the young; it is a statement of our past, our present and our future. Each piece is very special, but together the pieces are so much more beautiful and powerful than they are as independent entities," said Rabbi Steven Garten.

The four panels, the four circles, and the four letters in each of the Hebrew words, *M'Dor L'Dor*, convey the quilt's themes of 'From Generation to Generation,' and the handing down of the Torah and Jewish traditions.

The four circles in the quilt represent the four matriarchs – Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca and Leah. The unfolding Torah scroll allows the viewer to imagine the passage of time – past, present and future – via the illusory, wavy movement of the Torah panels which have neither a beginning nor end.

The circles show symbols from Temple Israel: a Torah design using the same fabric that had been used for the cover of the Torah in the Aron Kodesh; a Magen David modeled on the stained glass Magen David in the front

window of the synagogue; an appliqué Ner Tamid modeled on the one used during the High Holidays; and a needlepoint of Temple Israel's logo, the *Eitz Chaim*, or Tree of Life, designed by Sonia Tarantour-Pearl for Temple Israel's 25th anniversary.

Once the pattern pieces were distributed to the individual artisans, real creative freedom took hold and no one could have predicted how beautifully it would turn out. The quilt is a brilliant display of quilting, needlepoint, embroidery, appliqué and painting.

Carol Ruttle-Abbey assembled the quilt's eight main pieces and kept it at her home where individual quilters came to add their stitches to complete the work. Russell Phillips put together the rod and hand-turned hooks and finials – which resemble the handles of a Torah – to finish the look.

Participating congregants contributed their own designs to represent Shabbat and Jewish holidays and festivals including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Simchat Torah and Pesach, all of which show unity and harmony.

The entire work is framed colourfully with squares created by each of the 125 students of the religious school, from Kindergarten to Grade 10, to again represent the connection between the generations of Temple Israel. Each student considered which Jewish symbol they wished to portray. Using fabrics, glue, threads, pencils and beads, the children fashioned dreidels, Chanukiot, Torahs, rainbows, trees and characters from biblical stories.

"My husband David and I have travelled widely and we have never seen such a magnificent, extraordinary piece of originality in a work such as this. The effect on my Jewish sensibilities is utterly overwhelming," said Rose Shepton at the quilt's unveiling.

Everyone is welcome to visit Temple Israel and view this magnificent work. Visit templeisraelottawa.ca for photos and worship service schedules.

New rabbi to lead OTC adult programming

The Ottawa Torah Centre (OTC) is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. And according to Rabbi Menachem M. Blum, director and founder of OTC plans are well under way to expand their activities.

With the help of a generous grant from the Rohr Family Foundation, Rabbi Yisroel and Esther Simon and their child will be moving to Ottawa in January. The rabbi and his wife will lead the adult programming component of OTC.

"I look forward to moving to Ottawa and joining OTC to add my own little bit in strengthening the Ottawa Jewish community" said Rabbi Simon.

"Having Rabbi Simon and Esther here to assist us will allow us to build on our past accomplishments," notes Rabbi Blum.

Rabbi Simon was raised in Albany, N.Y. and received his rabbinical ordination from Yeshivat Tomchei Temimim in Brooklyn. He brings a world of experience in the fields of outreach and education. After studying at the rabbinical college of Michigan, he was posted for a year to Hungary and served the Jewish community of Budapest.

He served as a personal spiritual trainer, taught adult classes and organized communi-



Rabbi Yisroel Simon

ty social and educational events. While in Hungary, Rabbi Simon's duties included ensuring that kosher food and certification would be readily available. He then moved to Prague to continue his community work. With the many tourists and students visiting Prague, he was involved in leading Shabbat services, meals and holiday programs.

Rabbi Simon's teaching experience includes adult education at the the Schneerson Center for Jewish Life on the upper east side of Manhattan and teaching various grades and subjects at the high school level in Brooklyn. He also has spent a year in highly intensive training in adult education at the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute in New York.

Originally from London, England, Esther has been teaching for nine years and was involved in programming at the Schneerson Center for Jewish Life. Esther will also be involved in OTC programming, leading the Bat Mitzvah Club and women's programs.

Rabbi Simon is already working closely with OTC to co-ordinate adult programming for winter 2008.

Watch for the OTC winter program guide or visit www.OttawaTorahCentre.com.

Chabad of Centreponte hires new youth director

Chabad of Centreponte has announced the appointment of Youth Director Yaakov Pearson.

Pearson will focus his energies on expanding Chabad of Centreponte's youth club, adding new programs and projects to the existing activities.

Pearson was born in Philadelphia. For the past few years, he has been an active volunteer in youth activities, most recently directing a successful summer camp for boys in the former Soviet Union. After completing his yeshiva studies in Melbourne, Australia, and Morristown, N.J., he decided to pursue his vision of helping to establish a club where children can learn about the warmth and beauty of their culture while having a great time.

Every Friday night and Shabbat morning, Pearson runs a junior congregation for boys and girls where the children discuss the Torah



Yaakov Pearson with young bakers.

portion, hear great stories, play cool games and really enjoy being in Chabad of Centreponte's new shul.

Another project he has begun is the *Jewish Birthday Club*. Before every child's birthday, he or she receives a special package and an invitation for family and friends to attend a birthday party following Shabbat services.

Pearson also helps to organize a special monthly program for younger and older children.

At this past month's bake-off and bake sale event, the children felt a sense of accomplishment as they learned to bake and work together. They also learned the importance of tzedakah by setting up a stand and selling their baked good to raise funds for needy families.

To join the birthday club or find out about all the exciting children events visit the website www.ChabadCentrepointe.com or call Yaakov Pearson at 613-224-7050.

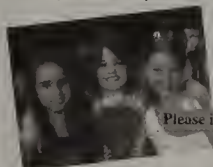
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FUN FOR ALL AGES

Congregation Beth Shalom to celebrate 50 years

By Alyce Baker

In 1957, a gutsy group of forward-thinking Ottawans came together to create Congregation Beth Shalom at 151 Chapel Street.

And now, 50 years later, the synagogue is stronger and more vibrant than ever.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, June 18 has been designated as an evening of "Bubbles & Bites" where the community is welcome to come together for what promises to be a magical evening.

The festivities will begin with a cocktail reception featuring food kiosks representing the five decades of the Shul - each kiosk featuring food reminiscent of that time period.

Guests will then be ushered into the sanctuary where a dynamic and moving video will trace the history of Beth Shalom and feature interviews with congregants sharing favourite stories of an era gone by.

A musical interlude with surprise entertainment will feature medleys representing

the past five decades.

Another highlight will be a humorous tribute to one of the community's most loved citizens, Issie Rose, a stalwart member and fixture in the life of Beth Shalom. Lastly, homage will be paid to the founding fathers and honoured elders who made Beth Shalom possible.

Guests will return to the dining hall for dessert and coffee that will feature favourite sweets of years gone by.

A "memory lane" photo gallery will include milestones and lifecycle events of the past 50 years.

You too can reminisce about the good old days and acknowledge the present times. Chapel Street was the beginning of our present-day roots, including Hillel Academy, the JCC and Summer Camp.

It is an evening not to be missed.

Tickets commemorating the year Beth Shalom came into existence are \$57.17 per person. They will be available online, through the office at 613-789-3501 and by ticket sellers.

Eat, Drink, and Become (or stay) Jewish at SJCC

Norma Baumel Joseph, director of the women and religion specialization at Concordia University, will present a lecture titled "Eat, Drink, and Become (or stay) Jewish" on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 pm at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Joseph's teaching and research areas include women and Judaism, Jewish law and ethics and women and religion. She appeared in, and was consultant to, the films *Half the Kingdom* and *Untying the Bonds...Jewish Divorce*.

Since the early 1970s, Joseph has promot-

ed women's greater participation in Jewish religious and communal life.

A founding member of the Canadian Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get (Jewish divorce), Dr. Joseph successfully worked with the Jewish community and the federal government to pass a law in 1990 that would protect Jewish women in difficult divorce situations and aid them in their pursuit of a Jewish divorce.

For information call Roslyn Wollock, adult program manager, 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

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Local men ride for charity in Israel

By Diane Koven

After training for several months, Joel Diener, Ian Bodnoff and Roger Greenberg set off at the end of October for a five-day bicycle ride in Israel known as "Wheels of Love." Along with approximately 60 participants from the Toronto area, they were joined in Israel by almost 500 others from around the world.

The ride was in support of Alyn Hospital, Israel's premiere comprehensive rehabilitation centre for physically challenged and disabled children. Since its inception in 2000 when nine Israelis rode for five days and raised \$65,000 for the hospital, it has grown by leaps and bounds. This year's fundraising goal of \$3,000,000 was expected to be met. Wheels of Love is not only the largest

annual fundraiser for Alyn Hospital, but is now Israel's single largest athletic fundraising event.

Greenberg had heard about the ride from friends who had participated last year and he suggested it to Diener. Diener in turn recruited Bodnoff and the three embarked on a training regime of cycling around the Ottawa area, finding challenging and hilly routes to improve their stamina and prepare them for the gruelling five-day, 400-km ride in Israel.

"Like many in my age group whose enthusiasm for personal exercise is waning, and being somewhat goal-oriented, this gave me something to aim for to improve my level of fitness, and it's for a good cause," said Greenberg.

"I ended up enjoying the training far more than I anticipated; we saw parts of Ottawa I had never really experienced."

The group was divided into several categories and levels of difficulty.

"Joel and I participated in the off-road, along with 130 other riders," said Bodnoff. "We met people from around the world: Peru, Mexico, Australia, Italy, Britain, France, Belgium, Israel, the U.S. and many from Toronto. Students, business people, lawyers, dentists, teachers, physiotherapists, doctors, retirees. Everybody was exceedingly friendly. It was the other riders that made the ride fun."

Before Diener began training last May, he had not been doing any serious cycling, but enjoyed the

training and the camaraderie. Once in Israel, he found the off-road experience provided a very different perspective of the country.

"Cycling through farms, kibbutzim and mountain passes, you really felt like you were 'there.' That was the attraction to us, just being on the ground" he said. "It was definitely a physical challenge and very fulfilling spiritually."

Bodnoff agrees.

"Seeing the country from a bicycle gives you the time to appreciate the beauty of the country, reflect on the difficulties the people have to overcome to have successful lives in Israel and to appreciate the history of the land."

In addition to the physical demands, Wheels of Love also presented a fundraising challenge. The riders not only had to pay their own transportation costs to and from Israel and take at least a week off work, but each pledged to raise a minimum of \$2,000 for Alyn Hospital.

Greenberg, Diener and



Ian Bodnoff, Joel Diener and Roger Greenberg

Bodnoff are grateful to their friends and families who very generously sponsored them in the ride, contributing money on their behalf to Alyn Hospital and its remarkable work with disabled children.

"Prior to the ride, we went for a tour of Alyn where we got to meet some of the patients and staff," said Bodnoff. "The work being done here is incredible."

"There are approximately 200 patients and it is close to a one to one relationship with staff. The patients and staff are of all faiths and backgrounds and as such, the hospital is a shining example of how we can all get along. If only we could get our political and religious leaders to do the same."

For all three, it was an experience not to be forgotten.



SJCC ski, snowboarding and tubing club ready to hit the slopes

Get your children ready for a mountain of winter fun on the snow covered peaks of Edelweiss Valley. Learn how to ski, snowboard or tube. Ninety-minute Pee Wee lessons are available for children five and six years old. Half-day or full-day lessons are available for seven- to 17-year-olds. Lift passes are available for teens and 18- to 25-year-olds as well as parents who would like to drive their children to Edelweiss instead of using the bus.

The bus leaves the SJCC at 8:20 am and returns at 4:15 pm. Responsible adults accompany the children on the bus and at Edelweiss ensuring that everyone is having a safe and fun day.

For more information call Jon Braun at 613-798-9818, ext. 267; e-mail braun@jccottawa.com or check the SJCC website, www.jccottawa.com.

Chanukah Sameach!

To My Friends in
Ottawa's Jewish Community

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An Evening of Tribute and Recognition A Chance to Say Farewell

Rabbi Mordecai Berger

Rabbi Mordecai Berger and his wife, Chaya Leah, are leaving for Melbourne, Australia, where he will be taking the position as principal of Yeshiva College. Please join with us in a celebration of their 31 years of dedicated service to the Ottawa Jewish Community and to the Young Israel of Ottawa.

Young Israel of Ottawa
627 Kirkwood Avenue

December 4, 2007 25 Kislev 5768
7:30 pm

The Chanukah miracle: we didn't kill each other

By Louise Rachlis
For many years now, husband Lorne and I, along with our friends Andy and Sandy Siggner, have combined our skills – just before Chanukah – for a traditional potato latke bake-off to prepare a freezer-load to have on hand.

We peel piles of potatoes, grate a mountain of onions

and fill an assortment of frying pans with oil. It is a big, messy job, but the four of us move around the big kitchen island with precision, sometimes with glasses of wine.

Like the Senators, we are a team. One prepares the potatoes, another the onions and we all take turns flipping the latkes in at least three fry-

ing pans at once. We slip and slide around the kitchen making batch after batch, as a growing layer of oil settles everywhere. Paper towels cover the counter, soaking up oil from the cooling latkes awaiting their Tupperware homes.

In anticipation of the engulfing oil, we open the front and back doors to dissipate the smell. In the midst of our activity this year, a small woman in a purple ski jacket arrives on the doorstep and, like Eliahu, the traditional invisible visitor, rings the doorbell and walks in, remarking, "Nice house!"

She says she's from Rockland, a small village outside Ottawa. She is lost and looking for directions. In true small town fashion, we help her out and send her on her way, hoping she isn't casing the joint.

Distracted by our unwitting visitor, we ignore a scraping noise as we grind the potatoes in the food processor. We continue grinding and scraping, filling the processor container to the brim.

It is only after we finish, and three quarters of our pancakes are lined up on the towel, that we happen to examine the plastic processor lid.

To our horror, there are



(Courtesy Josh Rachlis)

uneven ridges where the plastic has been ground away. Uh, oh! We've already eaten half a dozen each.

The former science teacher in our group offers the opinion that the plastic is inert; he thinks it would be all right to eat them.

We stare at the latkes some more. Then we look up the phone number for Poison Control. To the phone counsellor's credit, she doesn't laugh when the woman of the house explains, "We've eaten our food processor."

"I don't think the temper-

ature is high enough to give off any toxic fumes," she says. "but if the pieces of plastic were large enough, there could be gastrointestinal bleeding."

She recommends we toss them. So 36 potatoes, six onions, 18 eggs, a bottle of oil, six large yams, flour and, most importantly 12 person

hours later, we reluctantly toss 300 latkes in the garbage and look for the food processor's receipt.

For long afterward, the smell of oil on our bodies and throughout the house reminds us of the Chanukah miracle. And of the jelly doughnuts we will eat instead.

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Jonathan Seglins will entertain at Ben Franklin Place, December 5.

Circus Jonathan to perform at annual Chanukah event

The annual Chanukah celebration and menorah-lighting at Ben Franklin Place will receive a boost this year with entertainer Circus Jonathan.

Jonathan Seglins, also known as Circus Jonathan, is an award-winning comic, unicyclist, juggler, renowned clown, circus instructor, master balloon sculptor, stiltman, wire walker, equilibrist, actor, professional court jester, acrobat and variety entertainment producer. He has worked across Canada and in 12 countries around the world.

Public dignitaries and community leaders will attend the ceremony and will

assist in kindling the six-foot menorah. Following the kindling, the program will feature Chanukah treats, Jewish music, entertainment for all ages and more.

It all takes place on Wednesday evening, December 5 at 6:00 pm at 101 Centrepoin Drive. Admission is free and the entire community is invited. The event is co-sponsored by Chabad of Centrepoin and Ottawa Torah Center.

In its Chanukah outreach campaign, the local Chabad organizations join thousands of Chabad centres across the globe in displaying the menorah and its symbolic lights at similar public

Chanukah celebrations. From Australia to Africa, Columbia to Hong Kong, New York City to the White House lawn, hundreds of thousands will experience the joy of Chanukah with Chabad.

For more than 10 years, the community has come together at Ben Franklin Place in this public display of unity at the Menorah Lighting Ceremony.

Hundreds of men women and children participate every year, which makes it a really special Chanukah celebration.

For more information you may visit www.chabadcentrepointe.com or www.OttawaTorahCenter.com



Congregation Beth Shalom

We have restarted our monthly Shabbat Dinner Program

Our first event of the season is our Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 7, 2007

5:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:30 pm Traditional Chanukah Dinner

Join us for a joyful and musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by a traditional Shabbat Dinner, Chanukah melodies and treats for the children.

A supervised play room will be available

RSVP to Congregation Beth Shalom at 613-789-3501 ext. 223 or info@bethshalom.ca by Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Reserved seating only

Cost:

Adults	\$28.00
Students	\$18.00
Children 6-12	\$13.00
Children under 6	free



HOLD THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING SHABBAT DINNERS IN 2008:

January 11
April 11

February 1
May 2

March 7
June 6



Hillel Lodge Auxiliary honours Inez Zelikovitz



Inez Zelikovitz was honoured at the 2007 Hillel Lodge Auxiliary Tea on October 28. Shown (from left to right) are: Marion Silver, tea convener; Inez Zelikovitz, Neomi Lipsky Cracower, Auxiliary president; and Roz Fremeth, tea convener.

Funds raised by the Auxiliary provide extra comforts and enhance the well-being of the residents. The Hillel Lodge Gift Shoppe, an Auxiliary project, has wonderful and unique finds at reasonable prices and the Auxiliary is always looking for new members. For information, call Hillel Lodge at 613-723-3900.



Temple Israel students visit the Archives

As part of their "what makes a community" studies, students in Howie Osterer's Temple Israel Grade 8 and 9 class visited the Ottawa Jewish Archives to research the Mirsky, Dover, Bilsky, Loeb and Greenberg families, Hillel Lodge, the Chevra Kadisha, Adath Jeshurun, Agudath Achim and B'nai Jacob synagogues. The students also visited the Byward Market and the cemetery.



Scroll of Jerusalem Award

(Left to Right) Rev. Barry Boucher, The Life Centre; Rabbi Gary Kessler, Congregation Beth Shalom; Rabbi Steven Garten, Temple Israel; and Annie Elliott, Knesset Christian Allies Caucus receive the Scroll of Jerusalem Award at the Peace Tower Church on November 8 for commitment to interfaith work between Christians and Jews as well as for their love and concern for the welfare and continued growth of the State of Israel. The scrolls were presented by State of Israel Bonds, Ottawa.

Hillel Academy plans for the future



Hillel Academy's Board of Directors were thinking big thoughts about the school's future when they met for the board's annual retreat in early November. With the expert help of Dr. Marc Kramer, executive director of RAVSAK: The Jewish Community Day School Network, board members worked on renewing and developing Hillel's mission statement for the 21st Century. Shown above are Dr. Faye Goldman, president of the Hillel Academy board of directors; Marc Kramer of RAVSAK and Rabbi Dr. Jeremiah Unterman, Hillel's director of education.

Waiser stars in *Peter Pan*



Ottawa native Jennifer Waiser, fresh from the Broadway production of *The Pirate Queen*, will take on the high-flying role of techno Tinkerbell in the very funny and silly family musical *Peter Pan*.

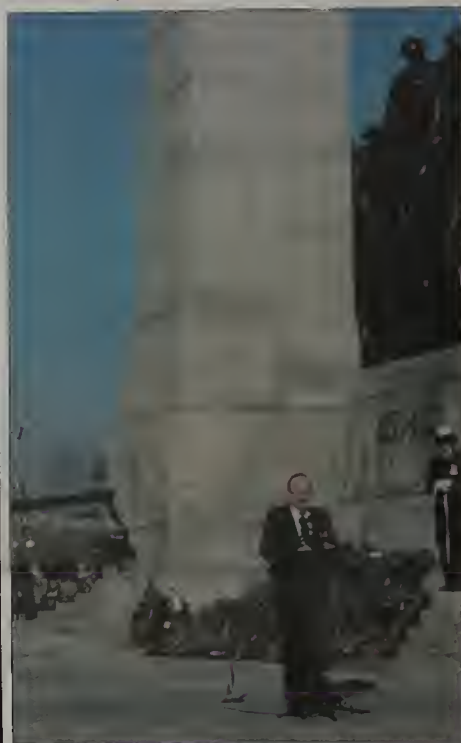
The play takes place in 2007 with Tinkerbell busily downloading music from the Internet, Wendy dreaming of being a pop star and Captain Hook willing to give his right arm to go to Hollywood and become the next big star.

The play also stars former skating world champion Kurt Browning.

Peter Pan runs until January 6, 2008 at the Elgin Theatre in Toronto. Tickets are available through ticketmaster.

Waiser was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for her performance as roller-skating Little Sally in the Canadian premiere of *Urinetown*.

Rabbi Bulka urges support for troops during Remembrance Day



Rabbi Reuven Bulka addresses more than 30,000 people attending the Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11. Rabbi Bulka, the honorary chaplain for the Dominion Command, urged the crowd to chant, "We love our troops."

They did, and gave the troops a loud ovation, much to the appreciation of Canada's top soldier, Gen. Rick Hillier.

Sam Ages, on behalf of the Ottawa Post Jewish War Veterans of Canada, laid a memorial wreath

(Photo: Elly Bollegraaf)

Remembrance Day at Hillel Academy

By Ben Trachtenberg, Grade 8C

As you all know, November 11 was Remembrance Day.


At Hillel Academy of Ottawa, there was an assembly, as there is every year, to commemorate the soldiers and heroes around the world. There were many tributes by almost every class.

I think the fact that little children could express such feelings of sadness and sincerity when they read "Flanders Field" touched the staff and other adults who attended. I even saw a few tearful faces, some

belonging to children.

Captain Lafave of our Canadian army spoke about how their job in Afghanistan is to secure unsafe areas for the citizens and to help reconstruct cities, roads and buildings that have been damaged.

I then realized, and I hope others did too, that on this day we need to remember what our army does for the world, and to remember not only the ones who died, but what they did, and how they served their country in making the world a better place.



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Advertising Supplement to the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin - December 2007

Five Star Entertainment: 'We make the party entertaining'

Five Star Entertainment has been in business for five years but has built a one-of-a-kind team averaging 20-plus years of experience per person in various aspects of the entertainment industry.

Getting married? Planning a *simcha* for your son or daughter? The same kind of care and attention to detail that goes into an event for 10,000 people goes into a small private party. We make the party entertaining.

"We have quality assurance checks throughout the whole planning phase of your event," says Rocco Micucci, owner and operator of Five Star Entertainment. "We are concerned with the overall client experience, not just the mechanics of the show."

"We are a full-service entertainment planning and implementation company," says Rocco. "Whether it's a Bar or Bat Mitzvah or your dream wedding, we are a one-stop shop. We handle

all your needs."

Teaming up with partners that are the absolute best in their respective fields, they have formed Ottawa's dream team for any event you are planning.



"We know our partners and they know us," says Rocco. "We guarantee we will work together as a single unit to give our clients the best experience possible."

"Until now people wanting full production DJ/entertainment for their event had to look outside of Ottawa," says Rocco. "We are here to change that."

"Our competitors from

Montreal and Toronto have to include transportation and lodging expenses in their price. When you hire us, you are getting personalized service, attention to detail, our staff's experience and artists/entertainers who have a proven track record."

Five Star Entertainment stays up-to-date on all current trends and are adding newly available services on a daily basis. There is no event that Rocco and his staff can't handle. They are determined to become leaders.

They are having great success in Ottawa's ethnic wedding market and are always expanding into other markets.

Five Star Entertainment is located at 17 Pritchard Drive in Nepean. Their phone number is 613-727-6226 and www.fivestar-entertainment.ca will be re-launching on December 15 as a state-of-the-art website.

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Creative Kosher Catering: putting pizzazz into the party

Every community has its secrets – even Ottawa. But what's been our little secret is spreading beyond the Jewish community and beyond the city limits.

Our little secret is David Smith and Creative Kosher Catering.

For almost 10 years now, David has been back in Ottawa wow-ing us with his fabulous food, devastating drama and scintillating style.

With every Bar and Bat Mitzvah and wedding that David caters, out-of-town guests get a glimpse of our dynamic party designer. Torontonians and Montrealers have been overheard saying:

"We have never seen anything quite like this!"

"You are so fortunate in Ottawa!"

"Won't you come do a *simcha* in our city?"

And Ottawans who've travelled elsewhere and compared caterers in other communities come back saying, "Are we ever lucky here. No one compares to



David Smith loves a challenge

David Smith!"

Creative Kosher Catering has been in business over 30 years and David is now catering the weddings of children whose Brit Milahs and Bar Mitzvahs he took care of. His memory is so strong that he still remembers the colours of the table cloths and flowers they chose almost 20 years ago.

David's roots in the catering business run deep and his intuition is so finely tuned he's seemingly

able to read clients' minds and produce the kinds of parties they want. And as styles and tastes have evolved and changed, so has David's ability to create new looks and menus.

"I actually get excited when a client comes to me with a new concept or even a recipe," says Smith. "It keeps me fresh and it challenges me, forcing the bar higher."

Items like sushi, lamb popsicles and rare tuna on a tortilla chip are all part of the new inventory. It's not about meatballs and roast chicken anymore.

Funky linen, colourful candy and interesting containers are all part of David's design packages.

David loves the challenge of a new venue, an exotic menu or an eclectic crowd.

"I don't just make parties happen. I make happening parties!" he exclaims.

You can reach David at 613-788-2713 or via e-mail at creativekosher@yahoo.ca.



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Sinders Bridal House: where dreams come true

Every little girl dreams of the perfect wedding and usually plans it out to the finest detail. Sindere Bridal House wants to ensure they do their part in helping you realize your dream.

One of the things that makes Sindere Bridal House unique is its owners, Jill Stern and Gabriella

Stern-Young. Mother (Jill) and daughter (Gabriella) have been in business since 1994 and provide the very best in customer service for their clients.

"We have the largest collection of wedding gowns and bridesmaid dresses in Eastern Ontario," says Gabriella.

The three-storey Victorian mansion is a beautiful setting for a bridal house. All three stories are utilized to their greatest potential. They have wedding gowns on the first floor, bridesmaid dresses on the second floor and professional steaming is done on the third floor.

Sinders works with an expert seamstress located directly across the street. Your gown will be there, ready for your first fit-



Gabriella Stern-Young and Jill Stern

ting, and can be picked up ready to wear from Sindere when it's finished.

Jill and Gabriella understand how stressful the planning of a wedding can be and have done their very best to make sure you don't have to worry about the dress once you have made your perfect selection.

"Your gown will be stored in our custom-built storage unit until your first fitting," says Gabriella. "Once your gown has been altered, it is then steamed, pressed and made ready for you to take home and share with your friends and loved ones."

As if the wonderful selection, one-on-one personal service and helpful staff weren't enough, the great atmosphere provided by the beautiful setting at Sindere Bridal House tops everything off.

Sinders Bridal House is located at 10 Lake Avenue West in Carleton Place. They can be reached by phone at 613-253-0039 or on the web at www.sinders.com.

Sinders Bridal House is where dreams come true.

Sinders
BRIDAL HOUSE
10 Lake Avenue West
Carleton Place
613-253-0039



www.sinders.com

Carlson Wagonlit Travel: for the perfect vacation getaway

Holiday time is travel time and Carlson Wagonlit Travel can help you find the perfect vacation getaway.

In business for over 25 years, Carlson Wagonlit is well established in the Ottawa community.

"We handle corporate and leisure travel and specialize in cruises and independent holidays," says Sandra Granatstein, president.

Carlson Wagonlit offers a wide variety of cruises, packages and personalized family and individual vacations. They also offer escorted tours to such destinations as Israel, China, South Africa, Morocco and Vietnam.

"We're planning more group departures as we go along," says Granatstein. "These are small, intimate groups with a maximum of 20 people."

Carlson Wagonlit's featured trips include a "Bridge with Liz" cruise of the Panama Canal in January, hosted by Liz Schwartz of the Rideau Bridge Club. The 10-night cruise is open to everyone, including those who don't play bridge.

Carlson Wagonlit also offers a Canyon Ranch Spa Experience in May that's sure to leave you completely relaxed and rejuvenated. Just announced is a tour of Morocco, hosted by Cantor Daniel Benlolo, in the spring of 2008.

Coming up with the perfect dream vacation can be a daunting task, but Carlson Wagonlit has an experienced staff that will make sure you find exactly what you're looking for.

"Some of the staff has been with me for over 20 years," says Granatstein.

"My staff's commitment is one of the reasons Carlson Wagonlit has been around for so long. We strive to make your vacation as great as it can possibly be. We pride ourselves on being experienced and in giving personalized, dedicated service. It's the key to our success," Granatstein says.

Carlson Wagonlit Travel is located at 714-130 Albert Street, at O'Connor. They can be reached at 613-238-4040 or 1-800-465-4040 and by e-mail at madison@carlsonwagonlit.ca. Visit their website at www.madisontravel.ca.

CARLSON WAGONLIT TRAVEL EXCLUSIVE TOURS

Upcoming group departures

- Canyon Ranch Ladies' Getaway (now accepting registrations) May 26-30, 2008
- "Bridge with Liz" MS Volendam - Panama Sunfarer January 11-22, 2008

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JEWISH HERITAGE TOURS

Join Cantor Daniel Benlolo for a tour of Morocco
May 4 - 15, 2008

CONTACT: LORI PATTON, ext 227 // SANDRA GRANATSTEIN, ext 224

Rabbi Steven Garten will lead a tour to Prague and Israel
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Nightshift Orchestra: every song is a home run

An experienced band brings nuance and subtlety to the music they play and in making sure an event stays on track.

For Nightshift Orchestra, the 20-plus years they've been together has sharpened both their musical skills and their unwavering instinct in ensuring that every moment of an event counts.

In the words of bandleader Eli Krantzberg: "We're grooving more, singing and playing better and having more fun on stage now than ever. We've learned to trim all the fat away from an evening. We aim to bat a thousand and make every song we play a home run."

A typical event begins weeks before the party. Krantzberg co-ordinates with each client to finely tune the scheduling of speeches, presentations and prayers to ensure every minute of the evening is used optimally. No matter what's happening, on or off stage, every moment flows seamlessly into the next.

"During an event, I'm working just as hard when we're off stage as when we're playing," says Krantzberg.

On the day of the party, Nightshift Orchestra arrives early in the afternoon for a sound check. Each venue sounds different and they come equipped with the gear and expertise they need to coax a silky smooth, world class sound from anywhere

they perform, regardless of the size of the room or crowd. Their dedication to creating the best aural experience possible doesn't end there. They understand the constantly evolving dynamics of a party and constantly tweak and adjust the sound to keep it perfectly mixed and balanced at all times.

"Playing at the right volume is a finely honed combination of song selection, instrumentation, proper sound check, collective discipline; and most importantly - pride!" explains Krantzberg.

Nightshift Orchestra looks every bit as good as they sound with their custom tuxedos and accessories and their on-stage choreography, which add a level of sophisticated and elegant visual excitement that brings the ambiance and mood of the whole party to the next level.

Top off all that careful attention to detail with the poise and finesse of singer and MC Nancy Zeligman and each and every party is supported, from start to finish, with graceful, dignified and thoughtful direction.

With Nightshift Orchestra's diverse repertoire, dynamic performance and detailed attention to timing, your party will be a guaranteed grand slam. Visit their web site at <http://www.nightshiftorchestra.com> or contact band leader Eli Krantzberg directly at 514-488-5963.

Rings Etc.: beautiful jewellery, wonderful service and great prices

Rings Etc. has been providing Ottawa area residents with beautiful jewellery, wonderful service and great prices for over 30 years. The knowledgeable staff will help make your jewellery buying experience as exciting as it deserves to be with no hard-selling

because no one works on commission.

"We do our best to provide you with the atmosphere necessary to make a purchase without feeling pressured or hassled," says Stan Wise, co-owner with his wife Marit.

Everything from diamonds, engagement rings, wedding bands, estate items, watches and gem stones can be found with ease in the spacious three floors of quality products.

Thirty years is a long time to be in business, so you know something is being done right. The great location and friendly staff are just two of the reasons why first-time buyers have become long-time customers.

All of your needs are met at Rings Etc. They do custom work in their own workshop. Need an appraisal? It'll be done while you wait. They buy, sell and trade jewellery



Marit and Stan Wise

and watches.

"We have specialists in diamonds, engagement rings and wedding bands," says Stan. "Every purchase comes with a complimentary appraisal. And we gift wrap your purchase for you."

All jewellery and watch repairs are done on site by experienced technicians.

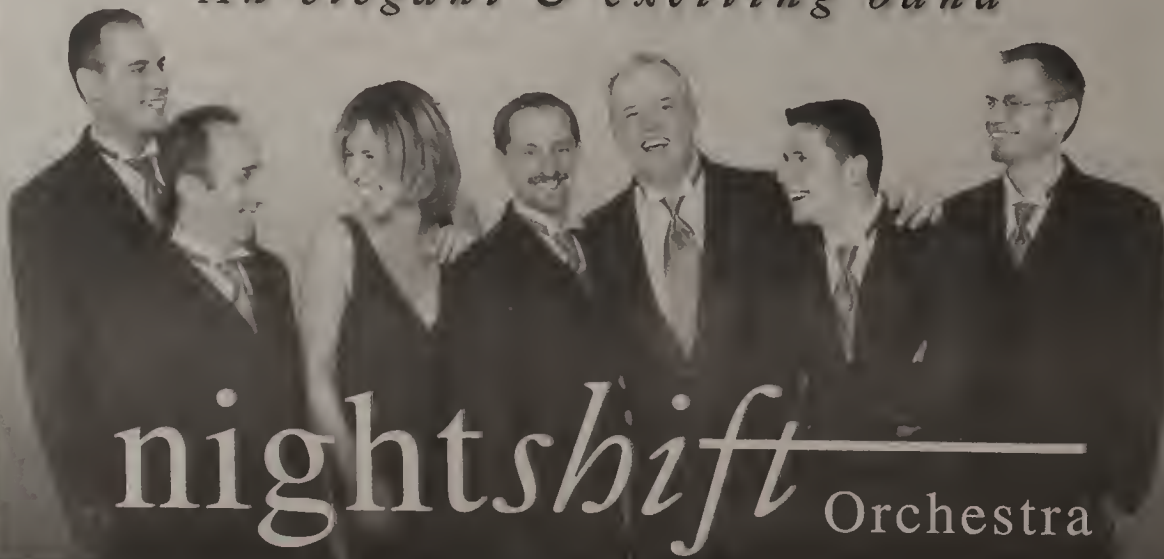
Stan and Marit have ensured they have the largest collection of watches possible. For the past 26 years, they have been selling watches of all kinds, from the everyday watch to the more luxurious, high-end watch. They sell Cartier, Rolex, Tag Heuer, Breitling, Omega, Movado and pocket watches.

"Rings Etc. wants to fulfill your every need," says Stan. "We want you to come into the store knowing what you want and walk out having found the perfect piece. It is our goal to ensure your satisfaction."

Rings Etc. is located at 137 Bank Street, between Slater and Laurier. For more information call 613-230-8280 or visit their website at www.ringsetc.ca.

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nightshift Orchestra

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My Caterer: delicious food and memorable themes

My Caterer is a unique catering company.

It's not just the immensely creative and memorable themes that owner Metin Yurtcu comes up with that makes My Caterer special.

And it's not just that they will cater wherever you'd like.

What makes My Caterer truly special is their ability to entertain adults and children in the same space; a space that's ideal for Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations.

My Caterer has four banquet halls with a total capacity of 300 people. Their location on the second floor of the Ottawa Athletic Club and their proximity to such facilities as a fully equipped gym, swimming pools, tennis courts and indoor golfing help make My Caterer's banquet halls a space for all ages to enjoy.

Guests can rock out on the dance floor to a live DJ. Children can play sports and exercise and parents can relax upstairs. Only My Caterer offers great food, entertainment for all ages and memorable themes.

With their 2,500 square-foot kitchen,

My Caterer serves up delicious food in creative and imaginative ways.

Whether you're looking to inspire pride with Israeli or Canadian flag decorations and table cloths or you're a sports buff and want to see hockey equipment decorate your event, My Caterer has you covered.

My Caterer also appeals to a wide variety of tastes.

Whether catering for adults or children, they have a wide variety of meals all made from top-quality ingredients.

Although they are not licensed by the Ottawa Vaad Hakrashut, My Caterer has experience with "kosher style" catering and can accommodate strictly kosher guests with meals sealed under the supervision of the Vaad Hakrashut. Their ideal location for a Kiddush is at Temple Israel.

My Caterer is located on the second floor of the Ottawa Athletic Club at 2525 Lancaster Road, about five minutes from downtown.

They can be reached at 613-260-1432 or by email at met@mycaterer.ca.

Visit them on the web at www.mycaterer.ca.

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Bar/Bat Mitzvahs!



Discover us at www.mycaterer.ca

My Caterer's clients have called it everything from "fabulous" to "excellent" to "superb."

Still, recent clients had one recommendation to make after *My Caterer* planned their son's Bar Mitzvah at **Temple Israel** -

that they change their name to "Where Did You Get That Caterer?"

Why? Because during and after the event, everyone asked them that very question.

My Caterer has five recently renovated banquet halls available at the **Ottawa Athletic Club** for client use, but is pleased to offer its services at any location.

**Please visit
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and testimonials**

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or call Met at 613-260-1432.

Marlin Travel: a full-service travel agency offering unique, exclusive and customized vacations

Marlin Travel has that combination of experience, devotion to detail and exclusive trips that will satisfy any traveller's desires.

Acquired in 1988 by the Shabinsky family, Marlin Travel - originally called Glenview Travel - employs eight travel specialists who collectively share 150 years of experience dealing with destinations around the world, including Israel.

"In 2006 and 2007, we had the privilege of being selected to handle the air arrangements for the Missions to Israel," says Michele Houle, Marlin Travel's General Manager. "Over the last few years, we have arranged several specialty group departures to various countries, including Israel."

Marlin Travel offers exclusive trips at competitive prices and their team of travel specialists work very hard developing lasting relationships with their clients.

"Our goal is to make each and everyone's trip a success," says Houle, who joined the agency in 1988.

Angela Biene-Lewis, Marlin Travel's Marketing Director, agrees that their service truly differentiates them from other travel agencies.

Marlin Travel has several exclusive trips coming up. There's a bridge cruise in January hosted by Colin Brodie, owner of the Bridge Connection Club; an Alaska cruise at the end of May hosted by Ken, "The General" Grant; two Wine and Culinary tours to Italy next May, escorted by Antonio Mauriello, sommelier.

Marlin Travel is also offering a river cruise in Provence, France in September and a Napa Valley wine-tasting adventure for women only next October.

"We customize itineraries for unique and exclusive vacations," says Houle.

With a variety of destinations, wedding and honeymoon trips, specialty groups and tours, Marlin Travel has vacation packages for all occasions and for everyone.

A proud Air Miles® sponsor, Marlin Travel is still owned and operated by Glenview Travel Inc. and the Shabinsky family.

Marlin Travel is located in Westboro Village at 175 Richmond Road. You can reach them at 613-728-1616 and visit their website at <http://www.marlintravel.ca/ottawa-richmondrd>. You can e-mail Michele Houle at Michele.houle@marlintravel.ca.

PaperStudio: one-stop shopping for personalized invitations

PaperStudio, Ottawa's only invitation house, has everything you need for perfect invitations, party favours and gifts. Choose from a wide variety of specialty papers, stationery and accessories.

"We have a fabulous selection of stock papers for the do-it-yourselfer" says owner Cheryl Cogan. "If you can think it, we can do it, and if we don't have it, we can usually order it."

Whether or not you're the creative type, you'll get great results, from the Mix & Match options. There's something for everyone, with an endless selection of paper colours, print styles and graphics. Papers are available in pre-cut cards, pocket enclosures and oversize sheets and there's a huge selection of in-stock or custom-ordered envelopes in fashionable colours and sizes.

PaperStudio can professionally design and print your order or they'll be happy to assist you do-it-yourself. Complete your order with matching menus, place cards, programs and tags. You can also save time by having your envelopes addressed.

PaperStudio offers a select line of affordable, high-end thermography from a wide variety of Canadian, U.S. and Israeli

catalogues. They feature an outstanding choice of invitations, all-occasion cards, announcements and accessories, with raised, metallic or reverse printing.

PaperStudio carries an exciting selection of party favours, containers, tags or table embellishments for any affair. Customize your menus, place cards, and table cards for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah or birthday celebrations. *Yarnulkes* can be ordered in stock or customer supplied fabrics.

"We service the Jewish community," Cheryl says. "It's important to have retail outlets that provide a large selection of items for Jewish holidays and celebrations."


"We have the experience, with our skilled staff (formerly from Paper World), the talent, with our graphic design team, and a great selection."

"We provide you with the confidence and impact you need to make your event a memorable one."

PaperStudio is located at 1568 Carling Avenue, just east of Churchill, with plenty of available parking. Appointments are not necessary, but preferable for dedicated consultations.

For further information call 613-798-9777 or visit www.paperstudio.ca.

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Master Mind Events makes your special occasion unique

A lot of time, effort and management skills go into making the perfect event. Mastermind Events (MME) is there every step of the way with everything you need to make your dream event a reality.

One of the things that helps make MME unique is its digital photo booth service, the only mobile digital photo booth service in Ottawa. A great addition to any event, it offers quick and easy photographs, great keepsakes for your guests and a fun way to capture the true spirit of your event.

"We're the only people in Ottawa that have it," says Jennifer Periberg, founder and event director of Mastermind Events. "It's available in Montreal and Toronto, but no one will travel to Ottawa. We decided to solve this problem ourselves, to have something different."

With her extensive background in business and event management, Jennifer has the experience that allows her to manage your event with professionalism and care. Based in Ottawa, Mastermind Events is part of the Canbana Corporation, a worldwide group specializing in the creation, production and delivery of professional and social events.

"We have built strong relationships with different vendors throughout the city," says Periberg. "Working closely with them let's us make sure that you are getting the best for your event."

MME offers a free consultation to review all aspects of your event including menu, timeline and budget. The consultation gives you the chance to decide if MME is the right fit for your event. With their attention to detail, experience in logistics management, and established relationships in the community, Mastermind Events brings innovation, professionalism and enthusiasm to all events.

MME can help you choose your venue, vendors, caterers and entertainment. They can also arrange transportation and guest speakers, suggest photographers, manage print materials and hire security. Mastermind Events works with you every step of the way to create an event meeting your unique needs.

"We value the input of our clients as it will guide us to create an event that will exceed their expectations and create a lifetime of memories."

Whether you're planning a Bar Mitzvah, wedding or conference, Mastermind Events offers everything you need. From unique party favours to chair cover rentals, Mastermind Events can handle any aspect of your event.

Mastermind Events is located in Kanata and can be reached by phone at 613-282-0889 or 1-800-494-0436 and by e-mail at Jennifer@mmecanada.com. Visit them on the web at www.mmecanada.com.

Award-winning Capital City Luggage has everything you need for travel

In 1987, Capital City Luggage (CCL) began its journey as a retail luggage and repair shop operating from a small, 800-square-foot store at 1337A Wellington Street West. After many long hours operating from these tiny quarters, literally climbing over repairs and merchandise, Linda and Murray Greenberg moved next door to their current location of over 5,000 square feet.

CCL has grown to become one of Ottawa's largest sales and repair travel centres and has won "dealer of the year" awards twice from Samsonite Canada Inc. and from Briggs and Riley Travelware in 2007. Customers travel from all over Canada and abroad in search of quality products at low prices.

Over the years, they have gained many long-term loyal customers who are so pleased to find sales associates who actually know the products inside and out and can help make a proper fit. Customers also appreciate being able to do their research online at www.capitalcityluggage.com.

Travellers can find everything they need to make their journey more comfortable, secure and efficient and can be outfitted from head to toe in comfort with the extensive line of Ex Officio clothing and Croc shoes.

CCL is well known for its quality lines of

luggage by the best manufacturers: Briggs and Riley, Eagle Creek, Samsonite, Victorinox and more.

"Some of the lines we carry have unconditional warranties that even cover airline damage and that's real quality," Murray says.

There is something for everyone, even for the wee traveller. They adore the pull-along, rideable travel cases and animal design backpacks.

As well, Linda searches high and low to find the latest travel gadgets for the travel accessory wall. Customers love to explore the hundreds of various gadgets to give as gifts or to add to their collection. The staff often hears squeals of delight as clients discover squishable neck pillows or the novel P-Mates for women, a definite must.

"Beyond our extensive product selection, what sets CCL apart from others is the quality service provided by our team of trained repair technicians," Murray states.

"Our knowledgeable sales associates look forward to helping you find the right piece and pass on packing tips and recommendations for your trip around the block or around the world."

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Morris Formal Wear: a family affair since 1927

There are many reasons why Morris Formalwear has been in business since 1927.

Family owned and operated since its inception, Morris Formal Wear takes great pride in providing the best in personalized service, and customer satisfaction.

"When someone comes in for a tuxedo it's usually for a very special event, so they should be treated as though they are special" says owner Sam Feldberg.

"That's the whole ambience about formal wear and the excitement of going to a wedding, a graduation, or special event. That's one of the reasons I'm excited to come to the store each day."

With that philosophy in mind, Morris Formal Wear has become the largest inde-



Sam Feldberg

pendent formalwear store in Ottawa with over 5000 tuxedos, on site, to choose from.

And with more than 35 styles from the top makers such as Oscar de la Renta, Chaps Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, After Six and Perry Ellis, you are bound to find the perfect tuxedo for any occasion.

Morris Formal Wear provides an "early entry" service allowing you to pick up your

tuxedos one week prior to your event at no additional charge.

And if you require a tuxedo right away, they will provide you with same day service at no additional charge.

"That's just part of our service."

Please visit www.morrisformalwear.com for more information.

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All Events Planning Services: creating the wedding, Bar Mitzvah or corporate event of your dreams

Everyone wants their event to be spectacular and exquisite. Putting together the event of your dreams can be a daunting task, but you can always turn to All Events Planning Services to handle every detail of any event with style, care and professionalism.

Founded in 1991, the heavily sought-after All Events Planning Services is owned and operated by Aliza Gauzas. A married mother of three, Gauzas has an impressive corporate clientele and extensive experience in business and community involvement, including her tenure as president of National Council of Jewish Women, B'nai Brith and board member of Hillel Lodge.

"We have clients from all walks of life looking for someone who is creative, with a great penchant for design and who offers complete coordination and management of all services," says Gauzas. "We give attention to every last detail."

"Our ultimate goal and satisfaction is to have our clients relaxed and worry free so they can participate and enjoy their own event, no matter how big or small, for weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, conferences or fundraisers."

With "whimsical and distinctive" themes and designs, Aliza's team will create the corporate or personal event of a lifetime for you.

One of the most stressful aspects of any event is trying to wade through the wealth of information available.

"People need a one-stop shop," says Gauzas, "where the preliminary resources are at your finger tips and you don't have to do all the research. We will help you get the best prices, the best quality and the best product to make your dreams come true; from décor, to finances and catering, to speakers, entertainment, location and theme. More than ever, a planner is an essential timesaver and a money-saver."

All Events Planning Services, which won the 2003 Nepean Chamber of Commerce Home-Based Business award, is not tied to a particular hotel or caterer, so they're free to organize events wherever and however you'd like.

All Events Planning Services is located at 58 Castleton Street. You can reach them at 613-228-0718, by fax at 613-228-4021 or via e-mail at info@alleventsplanning.com or see their website at www.alleventsplanning.com.

all Events planning services

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Since 1991*

DRIVEN Dance Company: infusing your party with excitement

Who hasn't organized a party and wondered, "How will my guests be entertained?" or "Will they dance?"

There are no such worries when the Driven Dance Company is there.

Driven is an innovative and unique performing hip hop troupe that will bring excitement, raw energy, jaw-dropping dance moves and FUN to your festivities!

Not only will our talented dancers give you an awesome performance, but they can even teach your guests – the young and not-so-young – how to hip hop. This highly popular street style dance form is often seen in music videos and is featured in the "So You Think You Can Dance" television series.

Performances are suitable for all ages, and are particularly popular with teenagers, making Driven the perfect entertainment for Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations and Sweet 16s.

Driven Dance Company performances are also great for any type of occasion including weddings, birthday and holiday parties and corporate events. All performances are tailored specifically to the client's needs, based on the type

of event, audience, duration, cost, space, etc.

To make sure your party keeps hopping *all night long*, Driven can provide dance leaders to work the crowd, teach the latest moves and encourage everyone to hit the dance floor.

Founded in 2004 by local hip hop dancer, teacher and choreographer Andrea Joinette, the Driven Dance Company boasts 16 talented male and female dancers, ranging in age from 17 to 27.

The company regularly performs throughout Ottawa at various community and private events and competes annually in the Canadian Hip Hop Championships.

Your young guests might even recognize some Driven dancers from school. That's because they're often invited to teach hip hop workshops in area high schools.

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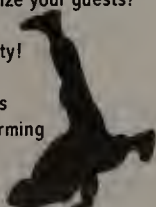
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For more information, please contact Natalie Peachy at 613-947-7000, ext. 353 or npeachy@nac-cna.ca.

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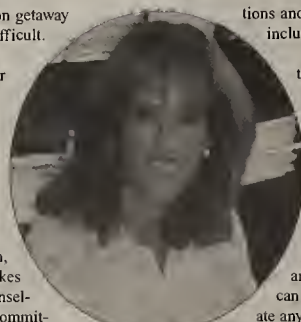
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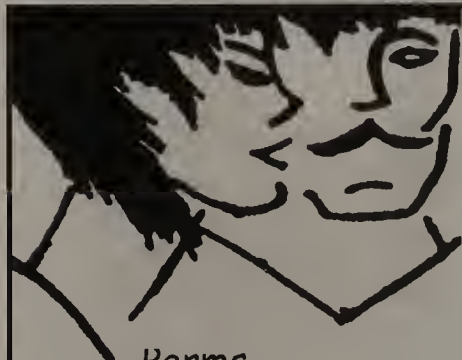


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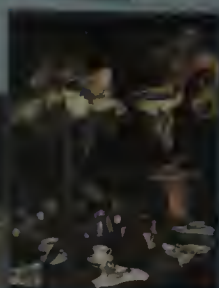
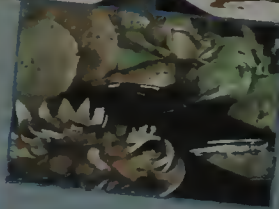
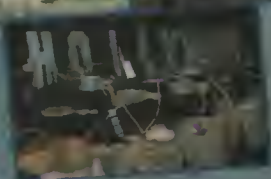
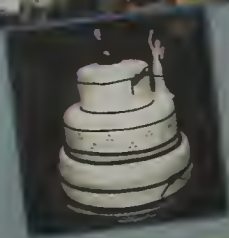
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Lord Stanley's Cup visits Hillel Academy

By Mitch Miller

The Stanley Cup was in Ottawa for less than 20 hours. In that time, it spent the evening as the guest of honour at the 10th annual Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner, hanging out with old friends like Jean Beliveau, Yvan Cournoyer, Henri Richard and many other Stanley Cup champions.

The next morning, the oldest and most cherished sports trophy in North America visited Hillel Academy meeting new friends and possibly future Cup champions.

If you're wondering how

the Stanley Cup got to be at Hillel, the answer is simple. Mike Bolt is a great guy. He is also the "Keeper of the Cup."

He is one of three men whose job it is to travel with the Stanley Cup and keep it safe. When I asked him if we could make time before his flight to New York (followed by trips to Chicago and then Pittsburgh) to stop by my daughter's class, he replied without hesitation "Sure," he said and then asked, "How many students are at the school?"

Before I could answer, Bolt suggested we visit

every classroom.

"OK," I replied.

I didn't understand the consequences of his suggestion, but he did, and that's why he is a real mensch. Every student from kindergarten to Grade 8, the faculty and staff, even parents, all had the same response – excitement.

Anyone who had a camera ran to grab it. Children of all ages wanted to touch the cup, some hugged it and a few kissed it. A handful of students were too superstitious to touch the cup as it might hurt their team's chance of winning it in June.



Hillel Academy students gather around the Stanley Cup.

Bolt knew what he was offering. I had no clue. I learned quickly that you cannot go anywhere with the Stanley Cup and expect it to be a quick visit. Bolt ensured that we stopped in every class and that every

student had the opportunity to see and touch the cup before we took a class photo.

It was interesting to hear the questions from students and faculty. The top three were: Is this the real Stanley

Cup? Answer: Yes. How much does it weigh? Answer: 35 lb. Can I pick it up for a picture? Answer: No, but you can stand beside it, put your arm around it and smile for the camera.



Israeli students join their YRHS partners on a visit to Parliament Hill.

YRHS hosts Israeli students

By Adam Sadinsky and Simcha Walfish, YRHS students

A new country, a new language, a group of people you have never met before – the situation sounds quite daunting, doesn't it?

These things were on the minds of eight students from Kiryat Shmona – a town in the Galilee region of Israel – when they boarded a plane destined for Canada a few weeks ago. Once they arrived in Ottawa, however, they realized that the large group of people they'd never met before was actually a warm group of students from Yitzhak Rabin High School (YRHS), who welcomed them with open arms.

Sure, the language was foreign and the weather outside was a little colder than they were used to, but they felt at home. All the students, Canadian and Israeli alike, had something in common. They were all Jews and shared a deep love for the state of Israel.

The Israelis came as part of Partnership 2000, or P2K. The partnership is a program whose main goal is to forge friendships between Canadian and Israeli students by pairing schools. Students from Israel visit Canada and students from Canada visit Israel.

The Israeli students were joined by their teacher and spent a whirlwind eight days in the nation's capital.

The trip started off with a presentation where the guests taught their new friends about *shmita* – the sabbatical year in Jewish tradition. Both Israelis and Canadians shared discussions about the topic in Hebrew and everyone got to know each other a little better. Other highlights included a trip to the IMAX, a tour of the Canadian Parliament, a hiking excursion in Gatineau Park, a *Shabbaton* at Beth Shalom West and a barbecue on Sunday night at a YRHS parents' house.

The next morning at the school, the students said their tearful goodbyes and made plans for future visits.

The friendships made will be remembered forever. Over the short period the Israelis were in Ottawa, the two groups learned from each other that, while they may live thousands of kilometres apart, they share a common bond that can never be broken.

When it was time to say goodbye, everyone involved was emotional, but excited, for the opportunity to meet again, later this year, in Israel.



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Thank you.

Germany's Jewish population fastest-growing in Europe

By Lawrence Humber

The Jewish community in Germany has grown substantially since the fall of the Berlin Wall. With that growth, "will it be able to accommodate diversity; the kind of Jewish diversity we have in Canada and the United States?"

That was the central question asked by Jeff Peck, a professor of German studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and author of *Being Jewish in the New Germany*, in a Holocaust Education Week lecture at Carleton University. He responded with guarded optimism.

Peck's lecture took place on November 8, the eve of two important anniversaries for Germany's Jews. Kristallnacht took place on November 9, 1938 and the Berlin Wall fell on that date in 1989

sparking a wave of Jewish immigration from former Eastern Bloc countries growing the German Jewish community to 120,000 from just 25,000 in 1989.

According to Peck, there are also about 70,000 others who identify themselves as Jewish although they are not considered members of the community under its strictly interpreted Halachic guidelines.

As much as 85 per cent of the community is of Russian origin, with only a few families left from Germany's pre-1933 Jewish population. Germany now has the third largest Jewish community in Europe and is the fastest growing.

With the recent influx, Peck says the German Jewish community has become more diverse and faces new challenges, including the need for

an expanded community infrastructure.

Peck notes that prior to the recent influx, the largest segment of the Jewish population was aging Holocaust survivors who began their lives in Germany as residents of the Displaced Persons camps after the Second World War and who remained in Germany rather than leaving for Israel or North America. A source of tension between them and the newcomers from Eastern Europe is their differing memories of, and relationship to, the Holocaust.

Peck also notes growing religious diversity in the community.

Reform Judaism has recently re-emerged and Chabad has arisen as a rival for traditionally Orthodox congregations. There is also an increasing proportion of the community who consider themselves secular Jews and who gravitate toward institutions like a newly established Jewish cultural club.

According to Peck, there is also some ethnic tension in the community because the Russian immigrants can still be made to feel unwelcome, despite their high numbers.

With the German Jewish community's rapid growth and diversification, Peck expressed optimism about

the community's future and suggested that it could become a model for the Diaspora at a time when the Diaspora is becoming an increasing player in shaping Jewish identity.

Following his hour-long lecture, Peck responded to questions about interaction between the overall German population and the Jewish community, and about the reported rise of neo-Nazism in Germany. According to Peck, the rise of anti-Semitism and neo-Naziism in Germany has been exaggerated. As a Jew, he said he feels much safer in Germany than in France.

Peck concluded by comparing the German Jewish community to North American communities in their increasing diversity and growing inclusiveness and predicted the Jewish community in Germany will continue to thrive in the foreseeable future.

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Ottawa community to learn the 'big 10'

By Zev Singer

A recent survey in the U.S. found that more people could name the seven ingredients of a McDonald's Big Mac hamburger than could list the Ten Commandments.

People were also quicker to name the members of television's *Brady Bunch* family than the heavenly top 10.

It doesn't really take a zealot to see that this might not serve Americans well – although it may serve them "fries with that."

The Torah and its values have always been, and will always be, at the centre of civilized life. Neither the "two all beef patties" nor any of the fictitious Brady kids, even the "youngest one in curls," will be more than a most obscure footnote to history.

This is where JET (Jew-

ish Education through Torah) comes in. While it might not be able to single-handedly re-orient the western world around Torah values, over the next five months JET will be doing a lot to help Ottawa's Jewish community gain a deeper understanding of the Ten Commandments.

For the third year, JET will be organizing a city-wide learning program leading up to the annual Jewish Unity Live event in April. This year's theme is the Ten Commandments.

Through individual and group learning, Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations will take a close look at the world's most famous top 10 list.

Mind you, not even the description of the list as a "top 10" is uncontroversial. Judaism has never privileged these Ten Command-

ments over any of the other 603 in the Torah in terms of our responsibility in following them. Yet, clearly, this round-numbered list seems to have a special place. What is its unique significance?

That, of course, is just one of thousands of questions that can and will be asked in the coming months as everyone comes to the text with his or her own perspective.

And that's what makes this learning project go. The reason Jewish Unity Live focuses on learning is that the one thing Jews of all backgrounds can always agree on is the importance of learning, asking and growing.

The groups that have been formed the last two years to study as part of Jewish Unity Live (be it Lunch and Learns at Gowlings or small groups hosted in people's homes) have been very diverse, says JET's Rochel Goldbaum, who is co-ordinating the program. Every group comes at the learning project with its own take.

"Everyone can do it in the way they want to," Goldbaum says.

John Kershman and his wife hosted a learning group in their home last year. He was surprised by how much discussion and interaction was sparked by even a small section of text during the sessions. (Last year, Pirkei Avot, or Ethics of the Fathers, was the chosen text.)

"They were stimulating

and thought-provoking," Kershman says.

The Kershmans will be hosting a study group for this year's program as well.

Aryeh Stegenga, who was part of a study group for young adults, says he'd never tried this type of study before and was amazed by the different perspectives and approaches that some of his fellow group members took to the text.

"The motto of Jewish Unity Live is 'Building Jewish Unity through Learning,'" says Rabbi Zischa Shaps, director of JET. "There is an extra special power to learning when the whole community is learning the same material."

The Jewish Unity Live celebration will take place on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street. (And even if you don't take part in the learning program, you can still come to the big event.)

Just for the record, here are those big 10.

1. I am Hashem
2. Do not worship idols
3. Do not take Hashem's name in vain
4. Keep Shabbat
5. Respect your parents
6. Do not kill
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal (people, by kidnapping)
9. Do not bear false witness
10. Do not covet

P.S. If you want to know the hamburger ingredients – don't even think about it.



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"At Passages," says Program Supervisor Estelle Allen, "we recognize that

everyone has a contribution to make and we work hard to ensure each person realizes their potential."

Passages has more than 20 community partnerships with a variety of businesses, non-profit organizations and other community insti-

tutions in Ottawa. Whether its clerical work at the law firm of Drache Taxes, Estates and Charity Law; cleaning the inside of OC Transpo buses at Hurdman station; sorting and packing snowsuits at the Snowsuit Fund; cleaning services at Home Depot; volunteering with homeless people in the kitchen of Bethany Hope Services and the Salvation Army; cleaning fish tanks at Pet Smart; washing vehicles at Budget Car and Truck Rentals or setting dining room tables at Hillel Lodge, Tamir participants are making a difference.

"Businesses understand their responsibilities as corporate citizens" says Tamir Executive Director Mark Palmer. "They are also discovering people with developmental disabilities can make a very real contribution to their operations."

Tuyen Vo has been a Passages participant since it opened its doors in 2001. An immigrant from Vietnam, Tuyen is a graduate of



Tamir Passages participant Tuyen Vo volunteers three days a week at the firm of Drache Taxes, Estates and Charity Law.

Ottawa Technical High School developmental disabilities unit. She is a determined young woman whose goal it was to further her education, become a Canadian citizen and find a place where she could use her skills in the community.

Tuyen graduated from the Algonquin College's academic assistance program in 2005 and is now volunteering three days per week at Drache Taxes, Estates and Charity Law firm in downtown Ottawa.

She has her own workstation where she does scanning for the many lawyers at Drache.

"Tuyen's presence in our office is such a joy for us all. She is extremely thorough with all of her assignments and tasks and we really appreciate her being

here," says Gina Appleton, office manager at Drache.

Tuyen recently celebrated a birthday where she was showered with gifts from her co-workers at the firm and enjoyed a lovely day which included a surprise luncheon.

"With tremendous help from Tamir, Tuyen learned many things including social skills and how to take the bus independently," says her brother, Dong. "They spent a lot of time figuring out my sister's strengths and weaknesses, helping her improve and searching for a job match."

Tuyen is working on a new goal, with the help of her counsellor, to further her education and realize her dream of full-time employment. With assistance from Passages, she

will succeed.

If you know of someone who might benefit from Passages or you are involved in an organization interested in partnering with Tamir, give Passages Supervisor Estelle Allen a call at 613-725-3519.

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Card donations go a long way to improving the quality of life for our residents. Thank you for considering their needs and contributing to their well-being.

On behalf of the residents and their families, we extend sincere appreciation to the following individuals and families who made card donations to the Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation between November 1 and 14, 2007 inclusive.

HONOUR FUNDS

Unlike a bequest or gift of life insurance, which are realized some time in the future, a named Honour Fund (i.e., endowment fund) is established during your lifetime.

By making a contribution of \$1,000 or more, you can create a permanent remembrance for a loved one, honour a family member, declare what the Lodge has meant to you and/or support a cause that you believe in.

A Hillel Lodge Honour Fund is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

Bill and Leona Adler Memorial Fund

In Memory of:

Pauline Benjamin by Marilyn Adler
Pola Goldberg by Marilyn Adler
Bessie Silverman by Marilyn Adler

In Honour of:

Michael and Sylvia Caplan Mazal-tov on the birth of your new grandson by Marilyn Adler, Judith Wexler and Lisa Gorra

Jean and Samuel Akerman Family Fund

R'fuah Shlema:

Anita Liebhoff by Sheila and Larry Hartman

Elsie Baker Endowment Fund

In Honour of:

Derrick Ambrose Wishing you a very happy birthday by Polly and Jack Moran

Mel Baker Wishing a very happy 70th birthday to our brother and brother in law by Polly and Jack Moran

Andrew Levitan Wishing you a very

happy birthday by Polly and Jack Moran

Ben Levitan Wishing you a very happy birthday by Polly and Jack Moran

Jack Moran Wishing a very happy 70th birthday to my husband by Polly Moran

Marise Moran Wishing you a very happy birthday by Polly and Jack Moran

Jack Sherman Wishing you a very happy 70th birthday by Polly and Jack Moran

Jack and Betty Ballon Family Fund

In Honour of:

Betty Ballon Mazal Tov and best wishes on your 100th birthday by Lily and Jerry Penso; Sheila and Marvin Blackstein; and Ethel and Abe Murray

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Judith and Ed Borts Mazal Tov on Alana's engagement by Elaine Friedberg, Bob and Jonathan Dale

Faigy Muroff Best wishes for a very Happy Birthday by Elaine Friedberg, Bob and Jonathan Dale

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In Memory of:

Pauline Benjamin by Evelyn Greenberg

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In Memory of:

Bill Adler by Sheryl, Harvey, Mallory and Ryan Kardish.

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In Memory of:

Pauline Benjamin by Heidi, Steve, Jordana and Daniel Polowin; and Susan Krongold

R'fuah Shlema:

Murray Citron by Heidi, Steve, Jordana and Daniel Polowin

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Gary and Debra Viner Mazal tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Marcia Saipe and Ted Miller

R'fuah Shlema:

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Ghita Schneiderman by Cheryl and Jerry Cogan

Gertrude Shaffran by Debra and Stephen Schneiderman

Bessie Silverman by Debra and Stephen Schneiderman

Ralph and Anne Sternberg Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Cory Dancy Warmest wishes to our grandson on his 5th birthday by Bobby Laya and Zaidy Ted Jacobsen

Norah Fleming Happy Birthday to our sister by Laya and Teddy Jacobsen

Harvey Slipacoff Mazal Tov on your 60th birthday by Laya and Ted Jacobsen

Brian Strain Happy Birthday to our brother-in-law by Laya and Ted Jacobsen

Eric Weiner and Arlene Godfrey Family Fund

In Memory of:

Gertrude Shaffran by Arlene Godfrey, Eric, Melissa and Laura Weiner

Anna and Samuel Wex Family Fund

In Memory of:

Freda Appel by Anna and Sam Wex
Rosa Iny by Anna and Sam Wex

In Honour of:

Sid and Barbara Cohen with our very best wishes for good health and happiness in your new home by Anna and Samuel Wex

Residents Feeding Program

In Observance of the Yorzheit of:

Fanny Friedberg by Elaine Friedberg and Bob Dale

IN MEMORY OF:

Freda Appel by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Marion and Myer Vexler; and Sylvia Freeman and Family

Pauline Benjamin by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Helen Rosenthal; William Bloom; Marcia and Dick Zuker; and Debi and David Shore

Carl Rothman by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge

Gertrude Shaffran by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz; Lawrence Pleet and Norm Zagerman; and Sylvia Freeman and Family

Bessie Silverman by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Sally Taller; and William Bloom

Evelyn Woolfe by Janet and Norm Ironstone

Mollie Tradhursks by Ruth and Irving Aaron

A generous donation has been made in memory of a beloved husband, Dan Landen by Edith Landen

IN HONOUR OF:

Rose and Kevin Kardash With love and best wishes for a happy anniversary by Frances Rothman

R'FUAH SHLEMA:

Roz Taller by Sandra and Stephen Goldstein

Christine Williams by the Residents, Staff and Board of Hillel Lodge

The Foundation

would like to thank:

Elaine Friedberg and Bob Dale for their generosity and support in establishing the Friedberg and Dale Families Fund. This fund is in memory of their beloved parents, Fanny and Sydney Friedberg, and Tillie and Samuel Dale.

Sally and Harry Weltman for a very generous donation to the Lodge

Did you know

you can designate your United Way contribution or charitable payroll deduction to Hillel Lodge?

To do this, just mark Hillel Lodge and our charitable registration number (#86100 2459 RR0001) on the United Way form. Check with your employer to see if they match employee donations.

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JYL launches *KinderChef's Kosher Dessert Cookbook*

By Sarah Silverstein
Something special has been happening in the kitchen of the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa (JYL) over the past few years. And it smells delicious!

Throughout the school year, the children of the Jewish Preschool of the Arts have enjoyed baking with their teachers – cookies, muffins, squares – and, on Thursdays, beautiful fresh challahs to share with their families.

And this yummy experience does not end in June. Every summer, the children of Camp Gan Israel continue to use the kitchen to produce wonderful kosher treats.

Not only is baking a fun group activity, but it also

helps to teach valuable lessons about kashrut, taking turns and pre-math skills.

Who knew that such a fun activity was so much more than just a great snack?

Now the opportunity to enjoy baking with your children is coming your way in a fantastic new cookbook inspired by the recipes of the Preschool and Camp Gan Israel.

The *KinderChef's Kosher Dessert Cookbook* features 70 delicious dessert recipes in a beautiful, user-friendly cookbook including recipes and the pictures of smiling children who have "taste-approved" them over the years.

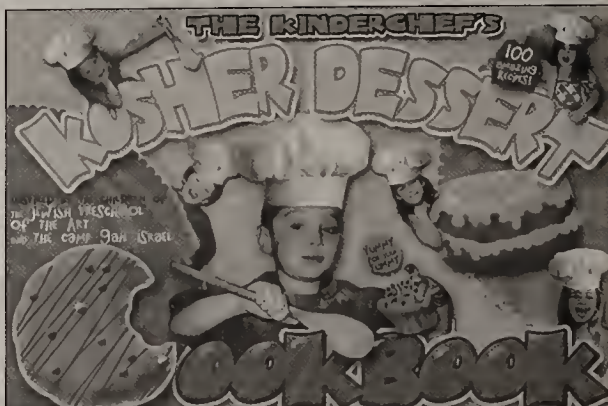
There are recipes for

cookies, muffins and squares as well as special sections for holiday-related treats.

"This cookbook celebrates the traditions of mixing all of the right ingredients of love of family, of love and learning of Torah, of hard work and of helping one another to achieve a meaningful goal," says co-editor Norma Silverstone in the forward.

It has been truly a labour of love for the entire cookbook committee – with the extra perk of getting to taste the results.

The cookbook is being sold through the Jewish Youth Library at 613-729-7712 for \$20, or three for \$55.



New cookbook, a labour of love, is inspired by the recipes of the Jewish Youth Library's Preschool of the Arts and Camp Gan Israel.

The cookbook makes a welcome addition to your collection and also makes a fantastic gift for children and adults this Chanukah season.

Musica Ebraica's beauty of Jerusalem in song, January 13

The Musica Ebraica concert of choral music, *Sha'alu Shalom Yerushalayim* (pray for the peace of Jerusalem), takes place on Sunday, January 13 at 2 pm at the Gilebe Community Centre, 175 Third Avenue (at Lyon).

Jerusalem is the focus of our prayers, poetry and music. King David's psalms invoke our dreams of Zion and the ancient prophets speak of Jerusalem's central position in our Jewish hearts and minds.

Musica Ebraica will bring you the beauty of Jerusalem in song. The concert features the award winning *Loquimini Veritatem* by Israeli composer Sara Shoham, who set the words of the prophet Zachariah to music using the origi-

nal Hebrew as well as Latin and Arabic translations. It becomes a poignant prayer for peace. Also featured is a setting of one of the *Psalms of David* by the Renaissance Italian composer Solomone Rossi and a haunting arrangement

of the well-known Israeli anthem, *Jerusalem of Gold*.

Tickets are \$15/10 in advance; \$18/15 at the door (children under 12, no charge) and are available from marshblack@gmail.com, 613-224-7073 or musicaebraica.ca.

The Ottawa Chapter of CFHU would like to thank the many sponsors and patrons of the Best of Hebrew U held on November 7, 2007.

The event was a resounding success with a record number of participants, and the support of the sponsors and patrons helped make it all possible.

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Professors who presented at the Best of Hebrew U 2007 (from left to right): Dr. Zohar Kerem, Professor Raymond Kaempfer, Dr. Paul Frosh, Professor Daniel Schwartz.

Ottawa's newest Jewish choir launches a busy Chanukah season

By Pat Dunphy

It was a love of Jewish music that led a group of people – some of whom had sung together in the past, some of whom were new – to form Ottawa's newest Jewish choral group – Zemer Lach.

"The choir's name, Hebrew for 'a song for you,' goes to the very heart of the group – sharing music and good times together," says Laurie Chochinov, one of the founding members of the self-supporting choir.

"There is so much music that doesn't get heard nearly enough – Israeli folk music, contemporary North American Jewish music and Yiddish compositions – which Zemer Lach will be able to learn and share with the community."

Sharing with the community is the operative idea behind Zemer Lach. Their weekly practices at Hillel Lodge are open to all residents to sit and enjoy new and traditional Jewish music. They share Shabbat music with the residents the third Friday of every month. And they have already lined up several 'mini' Chanukah concerts at a variety of seniors' residences including Hillel Lodge, Rideau Gardens, Rideau Place on the River, Central Park Lodge and Sterling Place.

For many, Zemer Lach is a chance to reconnect with old friends and fellow choir members in a convivial atmosphere.

Joyce Pagurek is particularly pleased that Zemer Lach is entirely self-supporting. "I love being part of a new and autonomous Jewish choir. It means we can chart our own course," she says. "It's a great group – focused, hard-working and lots of fun too."

The underlying theme of hard work, sharing with the community and fun is echoed by Ellen Asherman, the choir's director.

"I have worked with many of the members of Zemer Lach before and was thrilled when they asked me to be their director as they start out on this exciting new venture. I am looking forward to all the challenges and ultimately the rewards."

"My philosophy is that rehearsals are not only for learning the music, but are also a time to have fun too. Time for socializing and getting to know each other creates a cohesive group that will enjoy singing together."

While Zemer Lach is made up of many people who have sung together in the past, it welcomes new members as well. For some, like Leah Klein, it has been a great opportunity to integrate with the community, share a love of singing, and make new friends.

"When I moved back to Ottawa from Montreal, I was looking for a choir that I could join as I love to sing. Zemer Lach was the perfect choice: good music; giving



Zemer Lach is holding an open house at 7:00 pm on January 8 at Hillel Lodge.

back to the community and great people," she says.

Membership in Zemer Lach is open to anyone – Jewish or not – who would like to sing Jewish music.

If you are interested in becoming a member, an open house takes place at Hillel

Lodge on Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 pm. You will have a chance to meet the members, and sing some Jewish music.

It will be an evening that promises to be fun, joyous, and – above all – a great way to chase away those winter 'blues.'

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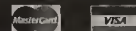
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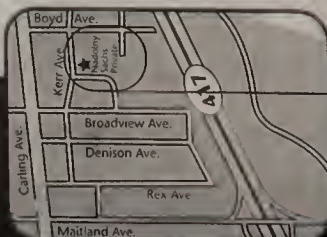
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613-798-9818 ext. 254, or rwollock@sjcc.com

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For more information contact Gail Lief at 613-798-9818 ext. 303

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FEBRUARY 8 • CITY WIDE • 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

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\$35M/day \$50NM/day • \$35M/day (2nd child) • \$50NM/day (2nd child)

MARCH 26 • HILLEL ACADEMY/PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE

Kindergarten - Grade 6 • \$15M/day, \$20NM/day

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (after-care available from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

MARCH BREAK CAMP MARCH 10 - 14 • 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

March Break Camp is action packed with amazing themes, field trips and interesting guests in addition to swimming, indoor and outdoor fun, games, crafts and sports.

MONDAY • Mad Science - Those wacky scientists are coming to the Soloway JCC to show us some exciting experiments.

TUESDAY • Mosaic Wonders - Mosaic Crafts at Gotta Paint

WEDNESDAY • Junction Day - We are off to Fun Junction

THURSDAY • Juggling and Balloon Animals Workshop

FRIDAY • Pancakes, PJ's and a Movie

Kindergarten - Grade 6 • \$35M/day, \$50NM/day
\$30M/day (2nd child) \$45NM/day (2nd child)

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HOLIDAY BREAK CAMPS

For more information contact Jon Braun at 613-798-9818 ext. 267

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REGISTRATION DATES:

January 30, 2008 (for Soloway
JCC members currently enrolled)

February 6, 2008 (for members
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February 20, 2008
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Jonathan Pivnick returns to Camp B'nai Brith

By Diane Koven

Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa (CBB) will welcome back Jonathan Pivnick as camp director this summer. It's hardly fair to say he'll be the "new" director, as Pivnick's association with CBB goes back nearly 40 years.

Pivnick is well known to several generations of Ottawans through his work as an educator. He has spent the past 31 years on staff at Sir Robert Borden High School (SRB) -27 years as a math teacher and four as a guidance counsellor. During his time there he has come to know many of CBB's campers and staff.

"I finished my teaching career

in June. The camp was looking for a full-time director to develop the assets we have and perhaps turn it [the camp] into a multi-season facility. I thought I might take this on as a full-time job," says Pivnick.

The camp has been an integral part of Pivnick's life since he arrived in Ottawa from Toronto with his family at the age of 11. "It provided me with a social network that helped me become part of the community," he said. Over the years, he was a camper, counsellor and head staff member, forging lifelong friendships along the way.

"I even met my spouse at

camp, and I know a number of other people who have met their spouses at camp," he noted.

According to CBB board member Michael Polowin, the combination of Pivnick's camp and teaching experience makes him an ideal choice for camp director.

"CBB is a camp rich in traditions and what Jon brings to the job from the perspective of the board is a wonderful blend of a person steeped in tradition and someone familiar with working with young people in 2007," he says. "We are confident that Jon will blend the two in a way that will ensure that kids have a won-

derful time and that the parents are absolutely certain their kids will be well taken care of."

Randi Sherman agrees wholeheartedly. She has known Pivnick since she was a camper at CBB and was a student of his the first year he taught math at SRB. She and her husband, Ian, met at CBB and their three sons have been actively involved with the camp as well.

"I feel he will give the camp the stability and the structure that it needs to go forward," she says.

"He has an unbelievable way with children. He knows teenagers and kids better than anybody I know. He is really going to take the camp to a new level and I am

really excited about it."

Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa, located just outside Quyon, Quebec, was founded in 1936 and has functioned continuously since then, with only a brief interruption during the Second World War, as a not-for-profit, charitable camp open to the entire Jewish community.

"No Jewish child will be turned away for financial reasons," says Polowin.

Each season, there are campers on full- and partial-subsidies. The camp also hosts 12 to 15 Israeli children each summer whose lives have been touched in some way by terrorism.

Have a Knish spends a night at CBB

Summer camp is a part of the upbringing of many Jewish kids. It means canoeing, roasting marshmallows, sing-a-longs, sports, swimming, finding first loves or possibly a mate for life, and making friendships that last forever.

For the parents, it means two months without their spoiled kids. Sometimes parents even take their kids off their meds, which is just great for the bunk staff.

But, for Paul, a kid who only cared about watching television and had no interest in anything else, camp was one of the weirdest experiences of his life.

Paul went to Camp B'nai Brith when he was eight years old. He did actually ask his parents to go, but when they dropped him off, he knew he had made one of the biggest mistakes of his life. (Right up there with writing this column!)

Paul just didn't understand camp. He truly missed the things closest to him (TV). Sure he liked the freedom away from his parents, the food, the joking around and, of course, the girls – the Jewish girls!

But is camp just another way for Jewish parents to try to get their kids hooked up and married within the faith? Is Jewish summer camp like an arranged marriage with marshmallows? It happens all the time. Byron's parents met at Camp Kadimah.

At 26, Paul thinks about camp every now and then. His memories are mixed, but he can't help but think, how come everyone who goes to camp looks back with such fondness? They say you can't go back in life, but Paul had an idea.

What if he and Byron went to Camp B'nai Brith 17 years after Paul's first summer in 1990 so he could experience it again? Like when you get a second Bar Mitzvah at the age of

83, maybe Paul might enjoy it more the second time around.

We decided to contact new camp director Jonathan Pivnick. We told him that while the 2007 CBB session ended a while ago, we were interested in writing a piece about a fall trip to camp. It would give Paul a second chance at being a camper and possibly put some closure on something he has been pondering for years: why didn't he like camp?

Within a few hours, Pivnick called back saying that when he read the e-mail his heart jumped up into his throat. He forwarded our request to his board of directors. They discussed it and decided to go ahead with it. (Has the world gone nuts?)

Pivnick said he would be at camp with us to take care of the alarm system and show us around. He told us sleeping over at camp in late October would be freezing and many of the activities wouldn't be available as the equipment was packed away for the season. But we would be free to roam about the grounds, make our own fun and do as we wished without breaking anything.

He also told us, and we quote, "The more I think about this, the more I think you guys are nuts!"

Were we crazy? Were Mr. Pivnick and the board out of their minds?

There's something cool and spooky about being the only ones at a Jewish summer camp in the middle of the fall! It's like "The Jewish Shining!" We knew, not everyone was coming back alive!

Paul enthusiastically told his parents about the trip, thinking they would be proud that he was giving camp, something they dished out thousands of dollars for when he was eight, a second chance.

The only response, "Do you know how cold it's going to be up there? You'll freeze!"

After a few hours of Paul's convincing his parents to let him borrow their car for the trip, his mother Betty reminded him to stay away from the bars in Quyon, Quebec.

"The bars up there are different. They're drinking bars. People sit on a stool and drink! Stay away," she advised.

And his parents kept repeating, "It's going to be freezing up there! What's the point?"

Cold or warm, rain or shine, we were going. Preparations commenced. We went to the CBB web site (www.cbbottawa.com) and figured out what we should take.

Paul kept thinking about how much he would miss his house and home life while he was away at camp, but this was something he had to do.

Our mothers sewed our name tags into our underwear, socks and pillowcases just like any good Jewish mother does before sending their kid off to camp. Well, we didn't want our underwear being mixed up with all the other kids at camp!



Paul Telner



Byron Pascoe

Have a Knish

Finally the day arrived. Byron headed to Canadian Tire to pick up fire-related products including Ecoflame lighting gel fire starter, matches and charcoal.

At Telner Headquarters, Paul gave his parents a big hug and promised to write every day! Tears of joy, or possibly disappointment that their son is 26 and still doesn't have a full-time job with benefits, poured down his parents' face as he drove away to Idiotsville!

It's interesting when you think about it. Not much has changed. We still live at home, and we're still going to camp!

Paul arrived at Byron's house and while Byron was packing the car full of pillows, sleeping bags, flashlights and copies of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* for us to read around the campfire, Paul spoke to Byron's mother Carol (Queen Bee of the Jewish community).

The first stop along the way: Loblaws. Now, keep in mind, this was Paul's parents' car, but Byron drove and Paul sat in the back seat as per usual. Paul believes Byron should drive him around and that he deserves service. We went into Loblaws and picked up kosher hot dogs, snacks and soda.

We finally hit the road, but got completely lost – in Ottawa. As we were crossing a bridge, Byron cut off a driver for which he was given two middle fingers! We don't know if he was reacting to Byron's terrible driving or the Israeli flag we put on the side of the car!

We missed plenty of exits in Quebec and we had to stop at three dépanneurs to ask, "Do you know if there's a Jewish summer camp around here?"

Finally, we saw a sign for Quyon, so we turned left and went down a very windy road. As we got closer and closer to the camp, Paul started experiencing horrible flashbacks of helping to carry a canoe when he was eight and having to take part in water sports. The memories definitely stay with you for life!

We were supposed to arrive at 6 pm but it was now 7:30. Classic! Some things never change.

In our next column, we will describe our overnight camp adventure and how things went with camp director "Piv."

This is the community-wide issue, which means some of you aren't subscribers. So buy a subscription and Have A Knish!



Paul Telner (right) with Jonathan Pivnick

I'm fair to middlin'

I was talking to a friend of mine and asked, "How are things?"

"Neither here nor there," he answered.

And then we continued our conversation as if he had not just said something strange.

It was strange in two ways.

First, 'neither here nor there' is supposed to mean unimportant or irrelevant: as in 'whether you come or go is neither here nor there' or 'with regard to your salvation, your good intentions are neither here nor there.'

Second, his answer was really a borrowing from the Yiddish expression, '*nisht ahin un nishit ahe*' perhaps used as meaning 'somewhere in the middle between extremes.'

So, let's assume he was answering as if he were trying to say something like 'fair to middlin'.' But really, I had asked him *how* things were, not *where*.

Things are 'fine,' or 'OK' or 'not so good.' That's how they are. But, if they are neither 'here nor there' then the question I should have asked was, "Where are things?" Then, the answer he gave would have been perfectly logical.

Except, even that bothers me, regardless of the usage. Because, if things are 'neither here nor there,' then, where

are they? Somewhere else. But where is that? We may not know where the things are. The things, whatever they are, may now be lost. It is clear we have a cause for concern.

Now, in English, we have a problem because, if things are not 'here,' they must be somewhere, 'there.' Because everywhere that is not 'there' is actually 'here' and vice versa. Halfway between 'here' and 'there' is still 'there.' Unless it is 'here.'

True, there are many individual 'theres' and, if you asked me whether something was in a particular 'there' that you point at, I might say, "no." But, eventually, if things were not 'here,' wouldn't there be at least one specific 'there' where those things were?

I decided if things were neither 'here nor there,' they would have to be someplace imaginary, like the square root of minus one. Remember? But, actually, if they are someplace imaginary, they are somewhere that is not 'here' or in other words, they are in some 'there.' So, the best I can do for a logical answer to the question of "how are things?" or as a phrase meaning 'unimportant,' is "not here" or "nowhere."

In Yiddish, the similar answer to how are things is, '*nisht*



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

ahin (toward there) *un nishit ahe* (toward here). This actually makes much more sense because these two words are directional. So, in Yiddish, when you give this answer, you are saying things are not moving away from you, nor are they moving toward you. This means they are stationary, that is, unchanged. And that is a logical answer to the question, "How are things?" They are unchanged, or not moving in any direction.

So, in the future, if someone asks, "How are things?" in English, and you have the urge to answer, "Neither here nor there," remember to answer correctly: "Neither moving away from me nor toward me."

Otherwise, you will be obliged to avoid your friends and when they call and ask, "How are things?" You will just have to say "Not here," and hang up.

Ottawa folksinger brings Jewish life to song

Shelley Posen is probably best known – along with Ian Robb and Ann Downey – as one of the three excellent singers in *Finest Kind*, a dynamic, Ottawa-based vocal trio popular on the international folk festival and concert circuit for their sublime interpretations of traditional and contemporary songs from the British Isles and North America.

Many in the community may also know him from the decade he spent leading the Beth Shalom Choir, or from his day job at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Posen, who holds a PhD in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania, is the museum's curator of Canadian folklife.

Over the past several years, Posen has also been gaining fame for his witty, stylistically varied songs about Jewish life, customs and traditions written from a pluralistic North American perspective. The perspective of someone who grew up in Toronto among the first wave of baby boomers – Posen was born in 1946 – with a mother from a religious family and a father politically rooted in the Jewish left.

As a youngster, Posen was classically trained. He took violin and piano lessons, sang in choirs and later attended the National Music Camp in Michigan where he played French horn in the orchestra and sang in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. After attending a Pete Seeger concert at the age 12, he became hooked on folk music and learned to play banjo from the Pete Seeger instructional book that has introduced generations of banjo players to the instrument. A few years later, he picked up fingerpicking on the guitar by watching Joan Baez through his binoculars at Toronto's Massey Hall.

On the folk music scene, Posen primarily sings traditional



Jewish Music

Michael Regenstein

material in his concerts and albums with *Finest Kind* – including some he found doing his PhD field work in the Ottawa Valley. However, he's also been a songwriter and a couple of his songs, "Having a Drink with Jane," a Cole Porter-esque jazz tune, and "No More Fish, No Fishermen," a lament for the death of the Newfoundland fisheries, have spread into the repertoires of other artists here and abroad.

About a decade ago, Posen also began writing some Jewish-themed songs. At first, it was fun songs like, "The La-La-Latke Song" and "Homen-Homentashen," written to sing with his kids, or with friends at Chanukah and Purim parties. Soon, though, Posen was also writing poignant songs like "And We Sang *Ha Lakhma Anya*" and "Fork Garden" about family memories and traditions.

In 2003, Posen released *Manna*, his first CD of Jewish-themed songs. Most of the 14 songs on the disc are about Jewish food or Jewish holidays, or the food we eat on Jewish holidays. Many of them, like "How Come You Don't Have Tongue," in which a deli patron demands to know why they

don't have his favourite sandwich meat, will make you laugh. Posen's experience singing Gilbert and Sullivan obviously prepared him to write and sing the tongue (pun intended) twister. But songs like "And We Sang *Ha Lakhma Anya*" will also bring a tear to your eye.

Menorah, his second Jewish-themed collection was released this year and it's an even better collection that delightfully documents the light-hearted and serious, the secular and religious, *Sides of Jewish life*.

Among its many highlights is "Dim Sum (or, One in a Minyan)," in which a Chassid, in search of a 10th man for a minyan knows where to find one – in a Chinese restaurant. Although he wouldn't have eaten there himself, the Chassid obviously knew about the love affair for Chinese food that so many North American Jews have. Another is "Street Corner Havdala," an end of Shabbat song for anyone who loves early rock and roll.

Among the most affecting songs on *Manna* are "Fork Garden," which brings together the memories and customs of several generations, and "Angels to the Light," in which Posen recalls his mother's weekly Shabbat candle-lighting ritual.

Posen uses a remarkable range of musical styles on these CDs: klezmer, old-time country, rock and roll, folk, marching band and more. When I listen to him sing these songs, which essentially come out of his family's traditions, there's much that I recognize from my own family and my own childhood.

For more information on Shelley Posen, or to order his CDs, visit his website at www.shelleyposen.com.

**Readers and advertisers are advised
that the next edition of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin
will be published
on Monday, January 21, 2008.**

The deadline date is Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

Southwestern Latkes

This recipe was inspired by a similar one I saw in the December 2007 issue of *Wish Magazine*.

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 1-2 jalapeño pepper, seeds removed and finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 2 19-ounce cans black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 large sweet potato, coarsely grated
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup low-fat (5%) sour cream
- 1/2 - 1 jalapeño pepper, seeds removed and finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

Pre-heat broiler. In a skillet over medium heat, warm 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add green onions and cook until beginning to soften, about 1 minute. Add garlic, 1-2 jalapeños and ground cumin and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Transfer to a large bowl.

Add beans to bowl. Using a fork or potato masher, mash the beans, leaving about 1/4 of them whole. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Fold in sweet potato, eggs and breadcrumbs. Divide into 10 equal-sized balls and flatten into patties.

Place a large skillet over medium high heat and add 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil. When skillet is hot, add 5 of the patties. Cook about 3-4 minutes per side, until crisp and hot. If patties begin to burn on the outside, turn down heat to low. Transfer patties to oven, set to 200 degrees F, to keep warm and repeat with remaining oil and patties.

While patties are frying, mix together sour cream, lime juice and jalapeño. Serve latkes with lime sour cream.



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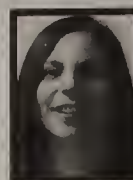
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Getting to the root of root vegetables



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

At this time of year, most fruits and vegetables are imported and the quality is not always the greatest.

Root vegetables are some of the few varieties we can consistently count on to have good flavour.

Carrots, the most common of root vegetables, are the Rodney Dangerfield of the vegetable world. They don't get much respect and are often overlooked for their versatility. They are inexpensive, keep well and are available year round. In addition to the standard orange variety, you can now find red, yellow and purple carrots. I bought some red baby carrots, with the stems still attached, in the fall, at Herb and Spice. I roasted them in the oven with just a bit of olive oil, salt and pepper and they were fantastic.

The parsnip is another root vegetable that doesn't get much press. Parsnips are much more popular in Europe than in North America. They look just like carrots, but are an off-white colour. They are delicious, sweet like carrots but with a wonderful earthy flavour. As with carrots, smaller ones (no more than one inch in diameter at the thickest end) are best. The larger ones tend to be tough and a bit woody in texture. Only buy ones that are firm and crisp. They will keep for several weeks in the fridge, loosely wrapped in plastic.

Sweet potatoes are another versatile root vegetable. While the names yam and sweet potato are often used interchangeably, they are not the same. Sweet potatoes are common in the American South and sold all year in the supermarket. There are two basic varieties. The first has a dark orange-reddish skin and bright orange flesh, while the sec-

ond has a tan skin and yellow flesh. The bright orange-fleshed ones are a bit moister and sweeter, when cooked, than their tan skinned cousins.

Yams are not commonly available in North America. The yam tuber has a brown or black skin, resembling the bark of a tree, and off-white, purple or red flesh, depending on the variety. They are at home growing in tropical climates, primarily in South America, Africa and the Caribbean. Yams contain more natural sugar than sweet potatoes and have higher moisture content. They are also marketed under their Spanish name 'boniato.'

The recipe for sautéed parsnips and carrots is perfect to serve to parsnip neophytes. The Southwestern Latkes recipe is perfect for those wanting to try a non-traditional latke.

The latke world is firmly divided into two camps. Those who will not deviate from their traditional latke and those who want to try something new and different every year.

I am not here to pass judgment. I'm just providing options.

Sautéed Parsnips and Carrots with Honey and Rosemary

This recipe comes from the November 2007 issue of *Bon Appetit Magazine*.

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound carrots (about 4 large), peeled and cut into 3 1/4 x 1/4-inch sticks
- 1 pound parsnips (about 4 large), peeled and cut into 3 1/4 x 1/4-inch sticks
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 1/2 tablespoons honey

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add carrots and sauté for about 2 minutes. Add parsnips and sprinkle with kosher salt and pepper.

Turn heat down to medium and continue to cook until vegetables begin to get brown around the edges, about 12 minutes.

Add butter (or margarine), rosemary and honey to vegetables. Toss until vegetables are evenly glazed and continue cooking for another 5 minutes. Season to taste with more salt and pepper, if desired.

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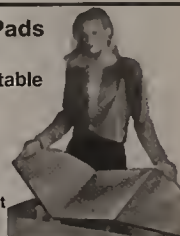


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Not your typical Chanukah books

Although the two books below mention the basics of Chanukah, the holiday is actually a springboard for other themes, including multiculturalism. Hence the warning: they are definitely not your typical Chanukah Kid Lit.

Hanukkah Moon

By Deborah Da Costa
Illustrated by Gosia Mosz
Kar-Ben Publishing 2007
Unpaged. Ages 6 - 10

Hanukkah Moon is a delightful picture storybook that depicts Chanukah celebrations with an artistic, nature-loving, Mexican Sephardic flair. No hot tamales, doughnuts or latkes, but a dreidel-shaped piñata, a handmade Noah's ark chanukiah, Spanish phrases, surprise visitors, a dash of feminism and the joy of a lunar event.

Learning new things is often an exciting, though worrisome experience. That's how Isobel feels when her parents drop her off to spend a few days of Chanukah with Aunt Louisa, a recent immigrant to the United States from Mexico. Armed with chocolate Chanukah gelt as comfort food, Isobel prepares to celebrate something called the *Hanukkah Moon*.

But, before that new celebration, readers enjoy the growing relationship between Isobel and her aunt. As for that *Hanukkah Moon*, it's the unseen moon marking the transition from Kislev to the new month of Tevet that begins during Chanukah and the female relationship to the start of a new month.

Colourful illustrations, in shades of yellow, gold and purple, enhance the casual mood of *Hanukkah Moon*, its slightly out-of-the-ordinary setting and the warmth of the developing love between niece and aunt.

Feast of Lights

By Ellen S. Jaffe
Sumach Press 2006
174 pages. Ages 10 - 12

Set in Toronto, *Feast of Lights* is a compassionate exploration of grief, healing and growth within a family during what is supposed to be a happy time. Less than six months earlier, 12-year-old Sarah Goldman's younger brother, Ben died of leukemia. Since then, everything has been different. Sarah, her mother and father have each been mourning in their own way.



By Deborah da Costa; illustrated by Gosia Mosz

Now it's Chanukah. How can this emotionally damaged family possibly celebrate Chanukah?

Dad doesn't want to. But Sarah and Mom are determined to light candles. For the first time, they will use great-grandmother Ruth's menorah, which has been in the family for over a century and has seen many miracles in addition to marking Chanukah's miracle of oil.

To Sarah's surprise, and eventual comfort, magic realism takes over as the candles burn. Night after night Sarah travels back in time, meeting her ancestors on her mother's side of the family at different stages in their lives. Sometimes they can interact. Sometimes not. Sometimes Sarah mingles her awareness of present events and feelings with past realities and emotions. Sometimes not.

Yet, each time, Sarah awakens with a better understanding of the people and events that went into making her who she is today. But who can she talk to about what is happening? Why is it happening? What are the rules? And what does it mean?

As Sarah wrestles with these concerns, she's also dealing



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

with school, friends, winter, etc. Along the way, readers get to know Ben, Sarah's mother and father, her best friend, Marnie, her geeky friend, Raphael, her ancestors and the Kensington Market section of Toronto. Readers also learn about Chanukah, Kristallnacht, the anti-Semitic riots at Christie Pits in Toronto in the mid-1930s, Anne Frank and the Holocaust, the northern lights, and so much more.

When a day of tobogganing at Christie Pits ends with Sarah in the very same hospital where Ben died, reality hits the family as hard as Sarah's head had hit a pine tree. They have to pull themselves together so everyone can flourish even as they remember Ben. The final candlelighting in the hospital is especially poignant as is the visit, the next day, to great-grandmother Ruth in the nursing home and the continuation of family stories at home afterwards.

Carefully crafted and sensitively written, *Feast of Lights* is also a feast for the physical senses. Smells, tastes, the feel of things, visual descriptions, the sounds of Yiddish words and lyrics, harmonica and piano music all tie the story together as much on the subconscious level as on the conscious level.

A tribute to personal resilience, family heritage and the power of light to overcome physical and emotional darkness, *Feast of Lights* is, ultimately, a reminder we should keep our eyes open for the everyday miracles that make life so worth living, even in times of sorrow.

Happy reading and Happy Chanukah!

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Go ahead and be picky about things that matter

Say you've been on the dating circuit for over 10 years and are worn out. What should you do? Settle for that sweet girl with the oversized nose? The dashing guy with the slight anger management problem? How about that otherwise perfect prospect who just hates your favourite band? And no matter whom you marry, how do you know that if you waited just a little longer, a better specimen wouldn't appear?

"You deserve better," chides the ego.

Many of us think of a date as having a certain 'market value,' which takes into account health, beauty, income level, social skills, education level and so on (the weight of each factor differs between men and women, and is culturally dictated). This market value is above, below or approximately what we ourselves are 'worth.' The goal, simply speaking, is to secure the best deal we can.

Problem is, relationships don't work that way. Love doesn't work that way. You're not in competition with anyone and, even if you think you are, the factors causing two people to want or not want to sustain a relationship are too complex, too elusive and too subjective to be able to plug into some formula and test for 'market value compatibility.' Doing so can lock you into singleness. The desirable will be unobtainable, and the obtainable undesirable.

On the other hand, lowering your standards is unwise. You're choosing a lifelong partner, not a dinner entrée. Despite your nagging parents, pressure from married friends or your own strong desire to settle down, you have every right



Dating 101

Jack Botwinik

to be discerning.

But don't look for perfection. First, it doesn't exist. Second, imperfection is what a marriage thrives on. It provides space for self-improvement and allows each partner to make a unique and meaningful contribution to the other's growth. (It's also worth keeping in mind that compatibility, although very important, is only one determinant of a happy marriage; another is the effort you both put into continually nurturing your relationship after the *chuppah*.)

You want to marry someone who is perfect for you, so don't compromise on that. And make sure one of the criteria for your mate is that he or she is genuinely interested in you.

So, what's a sensible way to decide if the girl or guy you like is perfect enough? First of all, many of us fear commitment and, in order to justify not tying the knot, have become experts at identifying other people's flaws. (If you're such a person, you'll never be satisfied with anyone. It's best to pause

your search and work on your fears.)

Look for compatibility in values, character traits, goals, interests and external attributes such as physical appearance and upbringing. In each of these areas, distinguish between your needs and your wants, between 'must-haves' and 'prefer-to-haves.'

Wants are transient and, in many instances, are socially conditioned. Sometimes, what friends and relatives notice readily about our date are the things that are least important in a marriage, and yet they are the things we most fret about because we fear they will affect our social standing.

Remember, wealth won't buy you happiness, cooking skills can be improved and, no matter how lush her hair is, it will turn gray within a decade or two.

Your needs, by contrast, are the qualities that are important in the long-run – for example, respect, commitment, *mentshlicheit* (basic human decency), communication, ability to compromise, shared goals (e.g., building a family) and religious values.

By focusing on the big picture, you avoid becoming obsessed about the little things.

So be picky – about the things that matter.

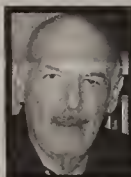
Jack Botwinik is the author of *Chicken Soup with Chopsticks: A Jew's Struggle for Truth in an Interfaith Relationship*. Comments are appreciated and can be sent to Jack via his Author Page at www.PaperSpider.Net (tinyurl.com/2mrrng5).

Chanukah traditions: gelt, light and foods fried in oil

When I was a child, my zaida Isidore went to the bank before Chanukah to get new silver dollars. Every year, he made a real ceremony of presenting them to each of his grandchildren.

It has taken me until now to learn the origin of the tradition of *Chanukah gelt*. While Chanukah, in its entirety, celebrates the miracle of the oil after the early victory that led to the renewal of the Temple in Jerusalem, Chanukah gelt commemorates the final victory, 22 years later, over the Syrian Greeks. The treaty that confirmed the Jewish victory recognized the right of the Maccabee state to mint coins. The Maccabee coinage was the first money issued by a Jewish government, a sign of its independence.

Chanukah's eight-day celebration is modelled on Sukkot, which precedes it in the calendar. When the Temple was des-



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Saul Silverman

ecrated, the festival pilgrimages were interrupted. The Jewish freedom-fighters, who hid in caves and waged guerrilla warfare, were reminded of the wandering in the wilderness that Sukkot commemorates. Survival and victory were seen as miraculous, just as many Israelis, immediately after the Six Day War in 1967, saw survival, victory and the recovery of all of Jerusalem as a miraculous reversal of fortune.

The central symbol

Jewish memory is built on ceremonies and traditions and we are not only taught through the words of prayer, but also by visible and tangible symbolism that appeals to our senses.

The central symbol of Chanukah is light. The Temple was the embodiment of light on the earth, both physically (the constant maintenance of the candelabra lights) and metaphorically (enlightenment). When we light our Chanukah candles, we are each emulating the maintenance of the light in the Temple ritual. And, when we display the menorah so that its light can be seen by passersby, our public manifestation harks back to the centrality of moral enlightenment affirmed by Judaism in ancient times.

Two thousand years ago, each Jewish household lit a large Chanukah menorah which stood at the right side of the entry, opposite the *mezuzah*. One of the great renewals of tradition, which we owe to Chabad Chassidism, is the public lighting of large Chanukah menorahs, in Ottawa and in many other cities around the world.

Food customs

When we think of food for Chanukah, most of us automatically think of potato latkes. But that tradition can't date back before the 16th century when the potato was first brought to

Europe from the Peruvian highlands, where it originated.

Before then, most Jews probably followed the Sephardic custom of frying meal or flour in olive oil. Think of something like a beaver tail or an old-fashioned jam-buster, a fried doughy treat with some jam or fruit smeared on it.

The custom of eating treats fried in olive oil parallels the central mitzvah of lighting candles or an eight-branched oil lamp. In Eretz Yisroel, the olive harvest was the last of the fall harvests and occurred in November. The olive harvest would have been pressed to extract the oil just before Chanukah. The best of the olive harvest would have been gently crushed, rather than pressed, under strict supervision of the priests and then sealed in containers for use in the Temple.

It is not the potato, or the dough, that is the most important ingredient of what is eaten, but the oil – particularly olive oil – that is used to prepare the symbolic Chanukah dish. Different food customs (*minhagin*) prevail: potato latkes for most Ashkenazim, doughy confectionaries for most Sephardim. But, more recently, the Sephardic tradition has been expressed by eating elaborately filled or iced doughnuts. In Israel, these luscious doughnuts (*sufganiyot*) are produced in great numbers for Chanukah consumption.

In the spirit of Jewish unity, why not eat both: potato latkes with the meal and kosher fancy doughnuts for dessert?

Websites

Wikipedia: tinyurl.com/aqlb9
Chanukah guide (Aish.com): tinyurl.com/37whgk
Chanukah gelt: tinyurl.com/vj25f
Chanukah and Sukkot: tinyurl.com/2umrpv
Chanukah lights (Chabad): tinyurl.com/yodnsh
Public, outdoor light (Bar Ilan U.): tinyurl.com/2v4t8v
Olives in Ancient Israel: tinyurl.com/39as27
Olive oil: tinyurl.com/2tz5mt
Chanukah food customs & recipes: tinyurl.com/209njl
Potato Latkes: tinyurl.com/3575gl
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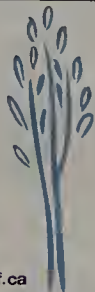
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 Hana Shatiah by Haze Wainberg.

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 In memory of:
 Sidney Katz by Barb and Lenny Farber; and by Libby and Stan Katz.
 Dolly Shatfran by Miriam and Louis Weiner; and by Carol and Larry Gradus.
 Freda Appel by Miriam and Louis Weiner.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND
 In memory of:
 Martin Dover by Millie Weinstein.

IRVING AND DIANE WEXLER FAMILY FUND
 In memory of:
 Freda Appel by Diane Wexler.

ZIPES KARANOFKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND
 In memory of:
 Dolly Shatfran by Rick and Helen Zipes.
 Mazal Tov to:
 Jeff and Lois Eisen on the engagement of their son Allan to Nathalie by Rick and Helen Zipes, Erin, Michael and Kyle.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM
STACEY SAMANTHA KATZ B'NAI MITZVAH FUND
 In appreciation to:
 Lisa Thaw by Joany and Andy Katz and family.
 Mazal Tov to:
 Mark and Felicia Saslove on the Bar Mitzvah of their daughter Miriam by Joany and Andy Katz and family.
 In memory of:
 Sara Kutner by Joany and Andy Katz and family.

ELANA MOSCOE MITZVAH FUND
 Anniversary wishes to:
 Lou and Evelyn Eisenberg on their 60th wedding anniversary by Margie, Aaron, Adam and Elana Moscoe.

JDNATHAN, MATTHEW AND ADAM SHERMAN B'NAI MITZVAH FUND
 In honour of:
 Ian Sherman on receiving his two professional achievements by Mom and Dad.

Contributions may be made online at www.ojct.ca or by phoning Bev Glube at 613-798-4696 extension 274, Monday to Friday. We have voice mail. Our e-mail address is bglube@jewishottawa.com.
 Attractive cards are sent to convey the appropriate sentiments. All donations are acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Amex.

In Appreciation

The family of the late Ilona Gal would like to thank all our friends for their kindness and expressions of condolence on the loss of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Your generous donations, cards, Shiva meals and visits were truly comforting during this difficult time and will always be remembered.

Miriam and Charles Taub

In Appreciation

On behalf of my family, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all who have conveyed expressions of sympathy and made generous donations in memory of my late father, Max Yegendorf. Your kind words and support offered comfort during this difficult time.

Howard Yegendorf

Thank you

I would like to express my warmest appreciation to everyone who helped and supported me through my recent illness. Your kind thoughts, cards, letters, donations and visits were much appreciated and played a very important part in my speedy recovery. I thank you all for your outpouring of kindness, caring and concern.

Most sincerely, Enid Gould



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VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

A minute, a call, a visit ... You make the difference

- **Kosher Meals on Wheels** is seeking drivers in response to increased demands on this program, drivers who can fill in with short notice. If you are able to help seniors receive their meals, it would be greatly appreciated.

- **Transportation** needed to assist seniors to go to and from medical appointments, special events and social opportunities, enabling them to maintain friendships and a social network.

- **TeleShalom** is seeking volunteers to place daily calls to seniors. Something you can do from the comfort of your own home and will only take a little time. If you are able to help, please let us know.

- **Making connections: Guten Tog Program.** Many seniors are living in long-term care facilities and would benefit from a visit, once a week, every other week or once a month.

- **Do you have one hour a week** to visit a senior who is visually impaired? This senior is seeking a volunteer to read her mail to her weekly, ideally on Monday mornings.

- **Do you speak Yiddish or French?** A senior in the Craig Henry area is seeking a volunteer who speaks French and Yiddish to go out for a coffee, play Gin Rummy or simply have a conversation.

- **ESL and homework club volunteers** needed to assist new Canadians with their English and to help out with the homework club at the Alta Vista library. If you are interested, please let us know.

- **Participation at committee level** needed for the **Shalom Bayit Program** (a program aimed at reducing violence against Jewish Women). If you are interested, please contact Sarah Caspi at 613-722-2225 ext. 246.

Deborah is waiting to hear from you at 613-722-2225, ext. 327.

THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE

Volunteers needed for:

- **Student special:** Do your community hours within the community. To find out how, email judithw@hillel-ltc.com.

- **Cashiers** needed to help in the café at lunch (11:45 am to 1:30 pm, Monday to Friday).

- **B-i-n-g-o!** If this is one of your favourite words, come play at the Lodge on Monday nights at 6:45 pm or Friday afternoons at 1:30 pm and have fun!

- **Sing!** Birthday parties (weekdays at 1:15 pm), Kinder-musik (Wednesdays at 9 to 11 am), monthly Happy Hours (1:45 pm) all need enthusiastic voices. Even if you don't sing opera, come!

- **Talk, debate or just listen!** Got a favourite topic on which you'd like the wisdom of elders? Come visit a resident and make a new friend!

- **Outings anyone?** Accompany residents to a museum or shopping at a mall (weekday mornings)!

- **Practice, practice!** Give a preview of a presentation or recital to our residents!

- **Special mitzvah anyone?** Bring a resident to Shabbos services (Saturdays at 9:15 am) and enjoy the fantastic Oneg with friends!

To inquire further, please call 613-728-3900, ext. 191.

Students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

Struggles of Ethiopian Jews and a journey through Asia

You'll need a sturdy coffee table for these two hard-covers.

The Ethiopian Jews of Israel: Personal Stories of Life in the Promised Land
By Len Lyons, with photographs by Ilan Ossendryver
Jewish Lights Publishing
Hardcover, 2007

In 2003, Len Lyons and his wife hosted Israeli Ethiopian Jews who were visiting them in Boston. It was then that his love affair with these "reserved, attentive, and deeply thoughtful" people was ignited and he became very interested in their stories and struggles to become integrated citizens of Israel.

This book is Lyons's tribute to their resiliency and their deep desire to make a Jewish life for themselves in their newly adopted country. Through conversations and haunting portraits, Lyons has presented an elucidating account of what it's been like for these dark-skinned Jews – now more than 100,000 – to become Israelis. But, be warned. Their stories of what it's like to be a Jew of colour in Israel are not always pretty, but the stories have long needed to be told.

And these stories are powerful indeed. Most of these "conversations" begin with what it was like to escape Ethiopia, what these so-called *Falashas* – a pejorative word meaning "outsider" or "landless" – experienced living in Sudanese refugee camps and how they managed to escape death and starvation.

Operation Moses, from November 21, 1984 to January 5, 1985, rescued those Jews who made it to the camps from various parts of Ethiopia. More than 4,000 died on their journeys, traumatizing those who lived to tell their stories.

Operation Solomon brought 14,000 more Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1991, but their struggle to integrate into the society after facing danger and death back home was too much of a challenge for many. They were not just coming to a new country; in many ways, they were travelling through time, leaving an agrarian, non-literate society for a high tech, modern, urban life. This book allows them to tell their stories in their own words.



Book Beat

Kinneret Globerman

The subjects of Ossendryver's compelling pictures are rarely seen smiling. Their direct stares speak volumes about the struggles they have faced, and still face, in their adopted country.

Shagau Mekonen explains how many of the Ethiopian youth in Israel now identify more with African-Americans than with Israelis, saying Israelis "are not so fond of us anymore."

Rikki Tegeba says, "We felt more Jewish and closer to God when we were in Ethiopia than we do here. In Israel was the first time we saw people who were not religious, and we were in shock ... There was no one who was not a religious Jew in the Jewish villages of Ethiopia."

Shlomo Berihun, who has been living in Israel for 17 years, now feels he's Ethiopian first, a Jew second and "only then Israeli."

But it is not all negative. Rabbi Yosef Hadane still speaks in awe of the miracle of his people's exodus from the Sudan, when Israel delivered so many thousands to the Promised Land, providing every one with shelter and food.

The people in this book talk about challenging obstacles, about preserving their culture and about becoming more involved in politics and having more opportunities.

"Little by little, even the egg can stand on its legs and walk." This Ethiopian proverb has become their daily motto.

The Asia Book: A Journey Through Every Country in the Continent
Various Authors
Lonely Planet/Raincoast Books
Hardcover, 2007

Shibam in Yemen, Dubai construction sites, Arabian lamp sculptures in Jiddah ... exotic locales for so many of us, are brought to colourful life in the pages of this book, a companion to Lonely Planet's *The Travel Book* (previously reviewed in this column).

From the cathedral spires in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, set against a blood-red sky, to the Shore Temple in Mamallapuram, India, in a pastel dusk, this pictorial trek across Asia is an indulgent feast for the eyes. The exquisite full-colour photographs depicting joy and wonder – even in war-torn places like Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon – alone are worth the price of this book!

But the book is also instructive. Each country is presented with numerous facts: its population, capital, size, languages, etc. Readers get a history lesson in one paragraph with a bit about each country's culture, marketplace, music and cuisine; as well as essential experiences to try when visiting. Some countries are given a couple of pages while others are allotted more. Israel's four pages offer some wonderful pictures, although the "classy costumes for clubbing in Tel Aviv" are questionable. With so many other possible photos for depicting modern Israeli life, you have to wonder why this eyebrow-raiser was included.

Travellers beware. If you're not planning a trip to Asia in the near future, this book might just make you change your mind.

Mazal Tov

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WHAT'S GOING ON December 3, 2007 to January 20, 2008

Happy Chanukah to the
Ottawa Jewish Community



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Dec 7	☆	4:02 pm
Dec 14	☆	4:02 pm
Dec 21	☆	4:04 pm
Dec 28	☆	4:09 pm
Jan 4	☆	4:15 pm
Jan 11	☆	4:23 pm
Jan 18	☆	4:31 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4
Jewish Family Services and Hillel Lodge present an indulgent showcase of Jewish artistry, Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadorly Sachs Private, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Continues Wednesday, December 5.
Israeli Folkdancing, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadorly Sachs Private, 6:30 pm.
Young Israel of Ottawa is hosting a farewell cocktail party for Rabbi Berger, Young Israel Synagogue, 6 Kirkwood Avenue, 7:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Chabad of Centrepoinette and Ottawa Torah Center, Chanukah celebration and menorah-lighting featuring Circus Jonathan, 101 Centrepointe Drive, 6:00 pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6
Israeli Folkdancing, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadorly Sachs Private, 6:30 pm.
College of Jewish Studies and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Lunch and Learn, noon.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
Congregation Beth Shalom, Shabbat Dinner, Congregation Beth

Shalom, 151 Chapel Street, 5:45 pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
Jewish Riverside South, First-Ever Chanukah Party and Outdoor Menorah Lighting in Riverside South, 3698 Twin Falls Place, 7:00 pm.
JET, Chanukah Party for adults only, jokes and laughter, at the home of Mark and Barbara Siegel, 8:00 pm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Chanukah Silly Olympics, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.
Chanukah Concert, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 1:00 pm.
JETSetters Chanukah Party, Pub 101, cash bar, 101 York Street, 7:30 pm.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10
JET, Lawyer's Lunch & Learn, Gowings, 160 Elgin Street, 26th Floor, noon.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11
Israel Folkdancing, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadorly Sachs Private, 6:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12
Kosher Lunches, open to the

community, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Drive, 11:30 am.

Jewish Family Services and Congregation Beth Shalom, Chanukah Celebration Lunch for Seniors, Congregation Beth Shalom, 151 Chapel Street, noon.

Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies & Carleton University, lecture by Norma Joseph, "Eat, Drink, and Become (or Stay) Jewish," 7:30 pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13
College of Jewish Studies and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Lunch and Learn, noon.

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Young Adult Division, Thirsty Thursday, Lieutenant's Pump, 361 Elgin Street, 8:00 pm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16
Ottawa Jewish Film Society, "Schwartz's Dynasty," 2:00 pm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
Jewish Family Services and Agudath Israel Congregation, Let's Do Lunch with Cantor Shneur Bliech in "Cantor of the Opera,"

Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, noon.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20
College of Jewish Studies and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Lunch and Learn, noon.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27
College of Jewish Studies and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Lunch and Learn, noon.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
Kollel of Ottawa Annual Dinner with guest speaker Robert J. Aumann, Fairmont Chateau Laurier

Hotel, 1 Sussex Drive, 6:30 pm.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14
Kollel of Ottawa hosts Nobel Peace Prize winner Robert J. Aumann, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who will speak to the community, 6:00 pm.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18
Weight Watchers free info session/registration, noon.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
Ottawa Jewish Film Society, "35 Pounds of Love," 2:00 pm.

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27
Mitzvah Day '08.
Contact Lindsay Rothenberg, 613-798-4696, ext. 270.

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 9
Allan Merovitz in *If Cows Could Fly*, Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 1233 Wellington Street West.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadorly Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schafer, calendar coordinator at 798-9515 ext. 265. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-9639 or email to bschafer@jccottawa.com.



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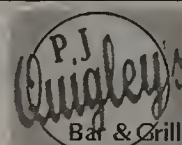
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Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Pauline Callan

Harry Kotlarsky

Lottie Krakower, Richmond, B.C.
(mother of Howard Krakower)

Carl Rothman

Dr. Stephen Silver

Gladys Weinstein

May their memory be a blessing always.

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2008

JANUARY 2 FOR JANUARY 21

JANUARY 16 FOR FEBRUARY 4

JANUARY 30 FOR FEBRUARY 18

FEBRUARY 20 FOR MARCH 10